HOW TO MAKE STUFFED ANIMALS

Modern Simple Patterns and Instructions for 18 Projects

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

INTRODUCTION

From knitting and crochet to stuffed-animal making, I have learned every craft technique I know from books. As a visual person, the combination of written instruction, photos, and illustrations has always been easier for me to follow than verbal instructions from a teacher. Craft books allow you to flip back and forth through the pages and work at your own pace. You may make more mistakes, but there is no better way to learn a new skill or technique.

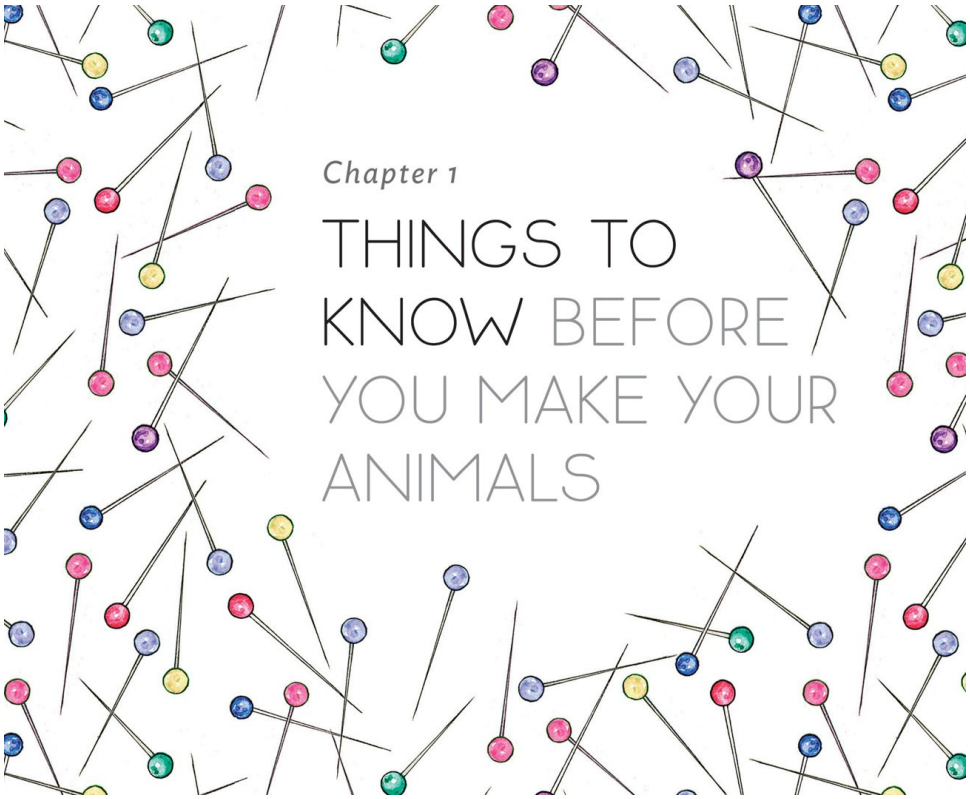
I started making stuffed animals in preparation for a craft fair during my last semester in college. After three and a half years of screen printing, machine knitting, and gouache painting as a textile design student, I was ready to try something fun and different. It was easy to translate the playful, childlike quality of my textile designs into three-dimensional stuffed creatures. Naturally, my dachshund pup, Ollie, inspired the first stuffed-animal pattern I created.

Soon after, I expanded into different dog breeds and animals and opened an online shop. I tapped into a very supportive and inspiring online community of crafters and artists. Once I got faster at pattern making, I began offering stuffed-pet portraits. I realized stuffed animals have a sweet, nostalgic nature that adults seem to love as much as children.

If you've completed the most basic of sewing projects, I'm confident you'll be able to master the eighteen projects within this book. Be sure to read chapter 1, "Things to Know

Before You Make Your Animals," before you start. There are a few simple but important techniques that you'll need to keep in mind for every project. Machine sewing the small pieces requires focus and patience at first, but it will go rather quickly once you get the hang of it. I think you'll find these projects to be forgiving with small mistakes. Any visible hand stitching serves as a charming reminder that the piece is handmade.

Please see the materials lists at the beginning of each project as suggestions, not strict requirements. My favorite fabrics to work with are those that have been passed down or found secondhand, because they lend a texture and an interest to the finished creature not often achievable with new fabrics. Try to use materials you have on hand and let your own collection inspire your choices.



MATERIALS

Fabric

All projects in this book can be completed with about 1/4 yard (22.9 cm) of fabric. “Fat quarters” commonly found at fabric and quilting shops will work perfectly. Although medium-weight woven cotton tends to work best, it’s great to experiment with different types of fabric.

Because only a small amount of fabric is needed to make a stuffed animal, it’s easy to use old clothes or household linens from your home or a local thrift store. Try experimenting with different materials, such as terry cloth towels, felted wool sweaters, old jeans, or corduroys. Lightweight or sheer fabrics can be layered with heavier-weight cotton for added stability. Repurposing materials is the most cost-effective and eco-friendly option, and it often lends more texture and interest to your work.

Threads

It’s good to have a collection of all-purpose thread in a variety of colors. However, most stitching will be hidden, so don’t sweat it if your thread does not exactly match your fabric. I suggest buying embroidery floss in pink and black for embroidering the animal eyes, noses, and mouths.

Stuffing

I prefer to stuff all of my animals with carded wool. After experimenting with different

types of stuffing, I found that I like wool's loft and density the best. Other options include natural cotton, polyester, and bamboo fiberfill.

TECHNIQUES

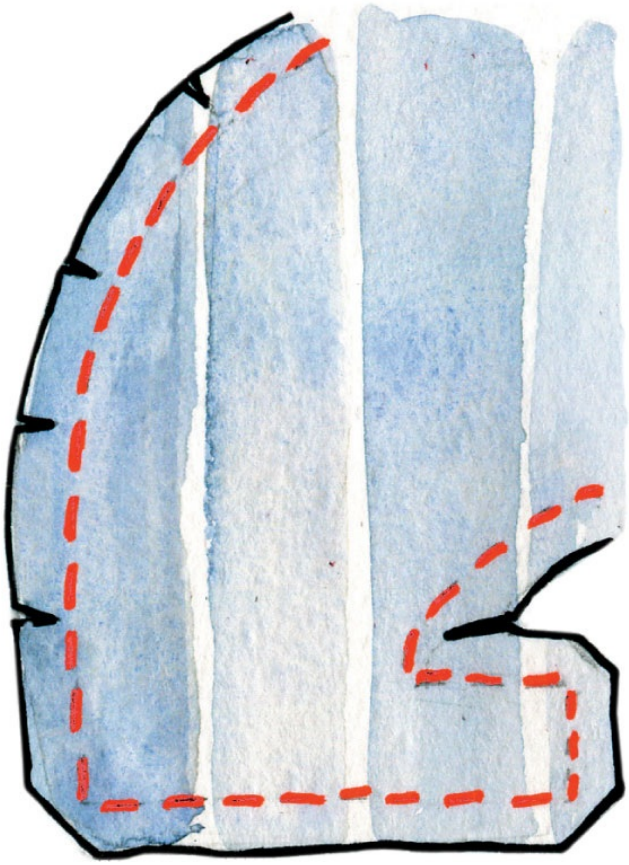
Pattern Preparation

For all projects, photocopy the patterns at 200% and cut out. (All of the animals in the book are made using patterns at 200%.) On some patterns, arrows indicate the top of the pattern piece as it is referred to in the instructions. Dashed lines indicate fold lines. Pin the patterns to the fabric and cut on the solid lines, making small outward notches at the markings. When cutting two fabric layers at once, be sure to place your fabric with right sides together so you have a corresponding right and left side for each piece.

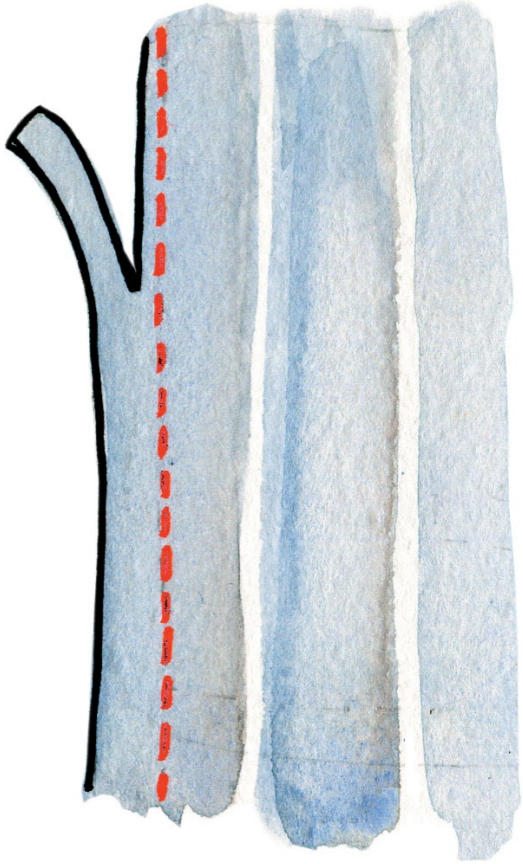
SEWING

All projects require edge stitching, which means there is very little seam allowance built into the patterns. Try to keep your stitches about 1/4" (6 mm) from the fabric cut edge.

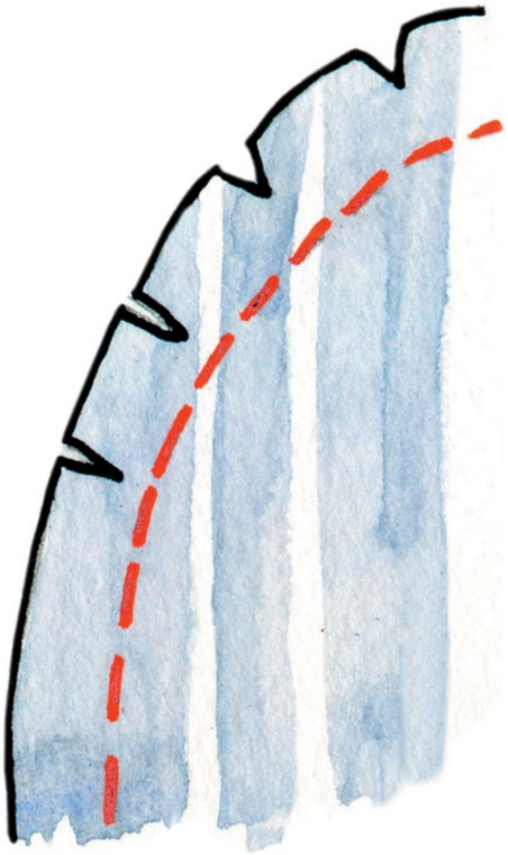
When sewing pieces together, place the fabric with the right sides facing unless specified otherwise. Using a short stitch length on your sewing machine makes it easier to control the fabric when sewing around small curves, and helps make the seams stronger. To avoid puckers at the corners of your finished animal, stitch the seams, and then clip the corners close to (but not through) the stitching (A). Trim extra fabric along the seam allowance to help eliminate any distortion (B). Along curved seams, make small perpendicular cuts up to (but not through) your stitching (C).



(A) *Clipping corners*



(B) *Trimming seam allowance*

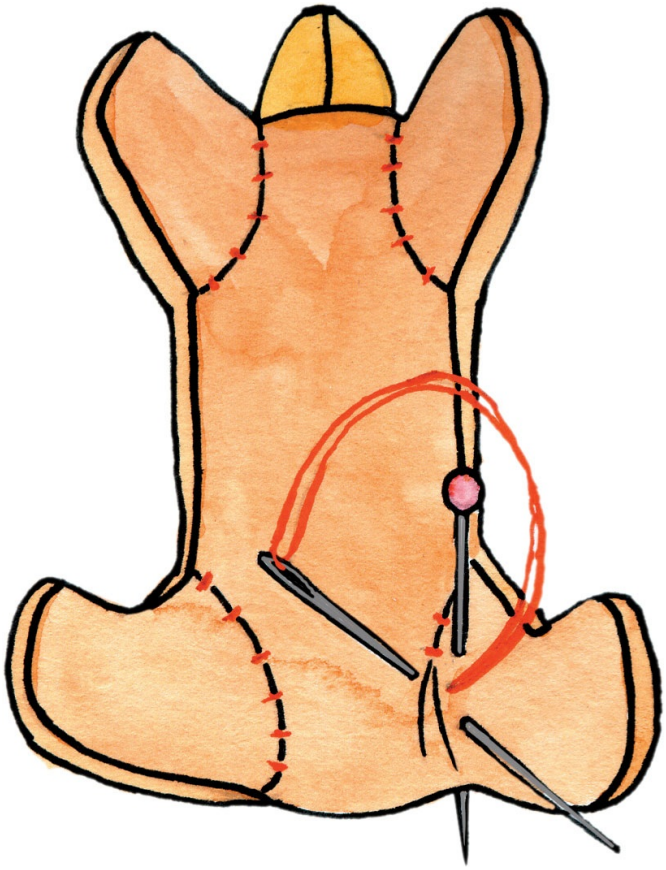


(C) *Clipping curves*

An easy way to stitch two small identical shapes (such as ears and tail pieces) together involves tracing around the pattern onto the fabric wrong side, but not cutting out. Place two fabric pieces together with the right sides facing, stitch along the traced line, and trim outside the stitching. This method also makes it easier to control the small pieces when using a sewing machine.

STUFFING

Tear off small bits of fiberfill and stuff the smallest areas of the animal first, such as the feet, nose, head, and tail. I like to use the rounded end of a crochet hook to gently push the stuffing into the corners. For the four-legged fellows, the most important portion to stuff well is the area where the legs meet the body. This will help the animal stand more upright. Sometimes the legs will splay slightly from the body after the animal has been stuffed. This happens if the animal has not been densely stuffed or if you are working with a lightweight fabric. To fix this, pin each leg perpendicular to the body, and make several small stitches to tack the legs closer to the body (A). If you use polyester stuffing, you will need to take this extra step with every four-legged animal you make.

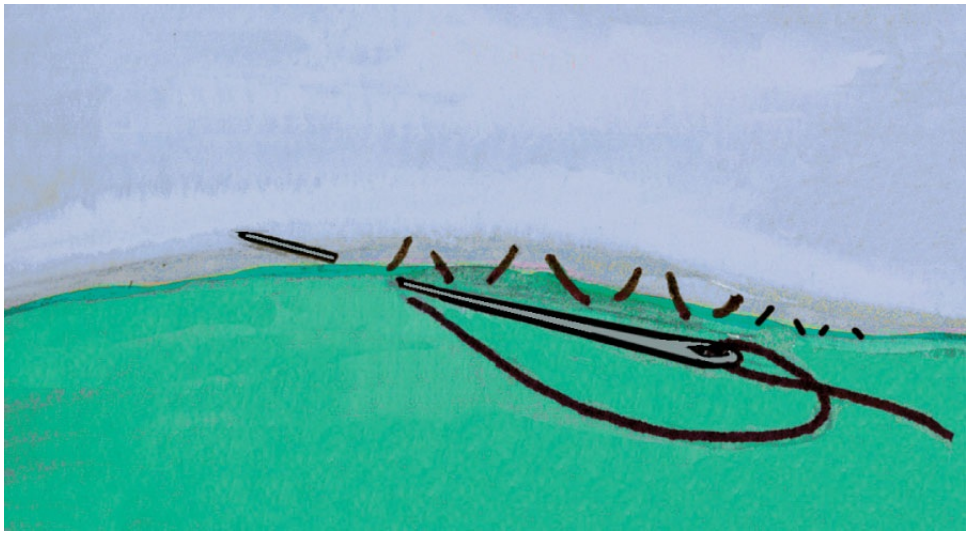


(A) *Tack legs perpendicular to body.*

Use a hemostat to turn small pieces right side out. You can reach inside the opening, grab a seam, and pull right side out. You can also use the hemostat to push out small areas after turning, and push stuffing into corners.

HAND STITCHES

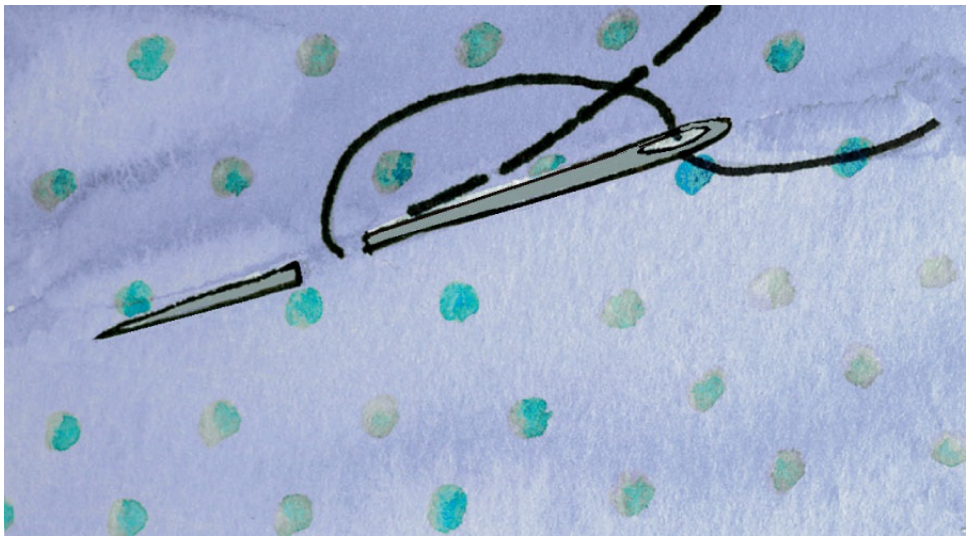
Although all the projects can be sewn on a machine, you may prefer to hand stitch smaller parts, such as the ears or tails, or the curvier sections of the bodies.



(B) *Slipstitch*

Slipstitch

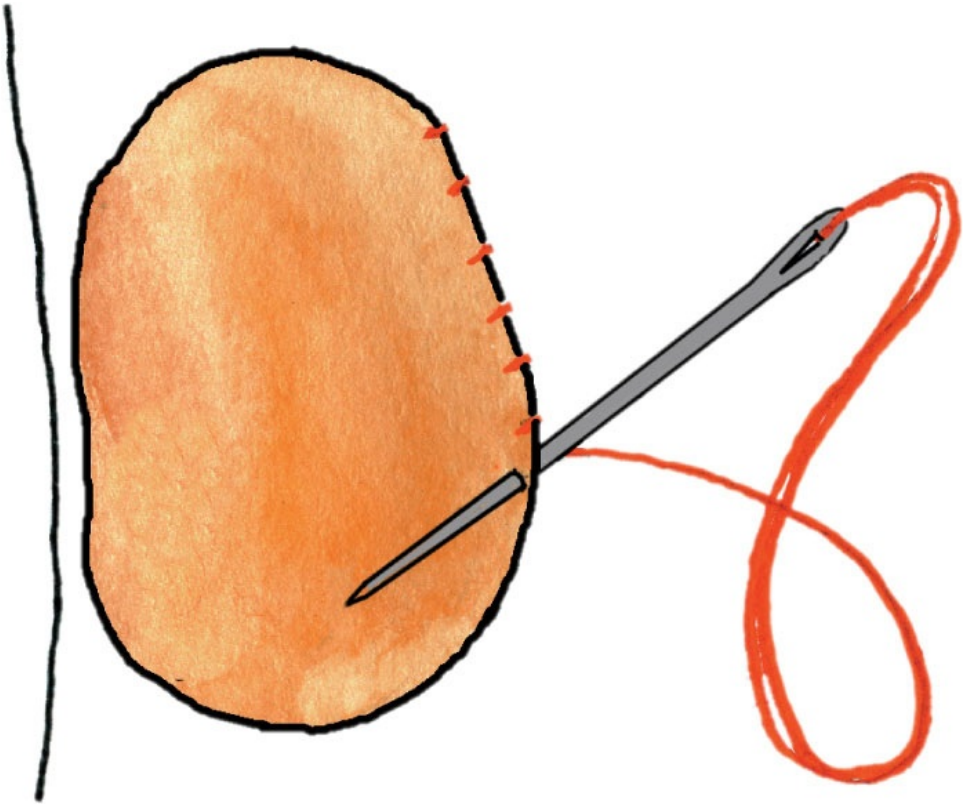
A slipstitch is a hidden stitch used to join two fabric edges. Slipstitches are done between the fabric right sides, using very small stitches (B). For the projects in this book, you'll use slipstitches to close the seams left open for stuffing the animals, as well as for adding details such as tails and ears.



(C) *Backstitch*

Backstitch

A backstitch is used in place of a basic running stitch when you need a stronger, more durable seam (C). For the projects in this book, use the backstitch on any area you are hand sewing that may require a strong seam, such as tails, ears, and the narwhal tusk.



(D) *Whipstitch*

Whipstitch

A whipstitch (D) is used to attach one piece of fabric to another. You'll use this stitch to appliqué details such as spots and noses onto your animals. If you prefer, you may whipstitch small pieces of black felt for eyes and noses instead of using the embroidery techniques offered in the instructions.

This sweet bunny’s underside offers a great opportunity to use a bold patterned fabric.

Size: 4-1/2" (11.4 cm) tall
Use patterns on page 120 at 200%.

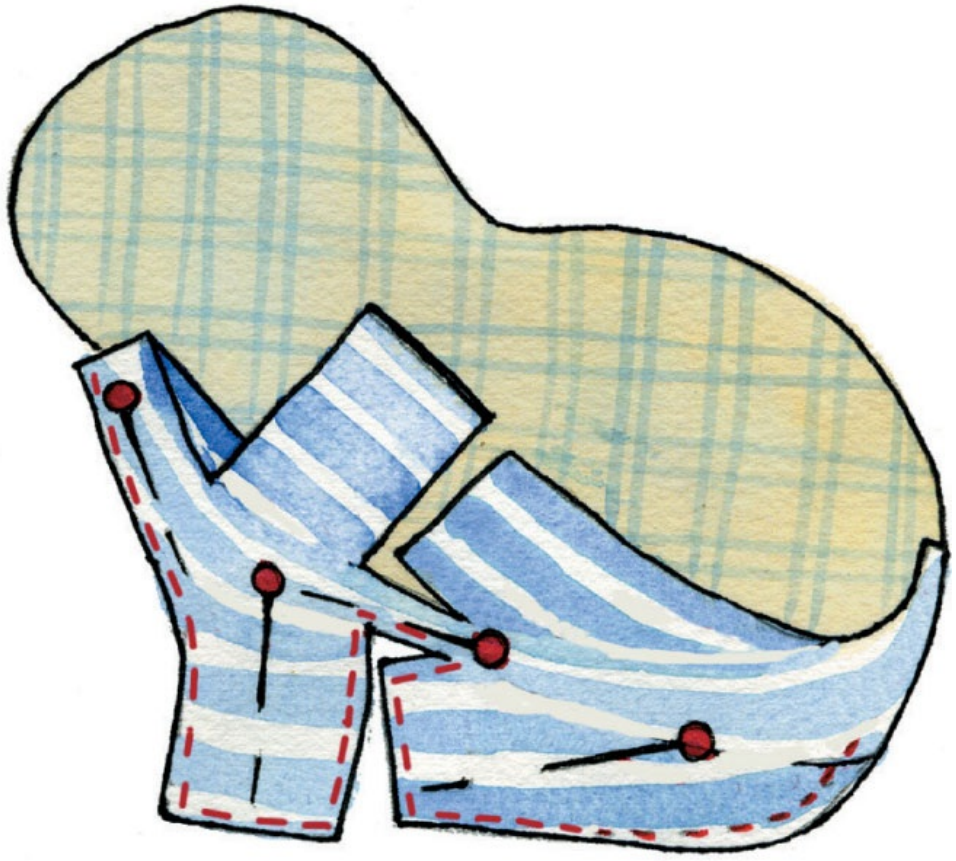
MATERIALS

- medium-weight cotton fabrics
- all-purpose sewing thread
- pink and black embroidery floss
- fiberfill
- 3/4" (1.9 cm) pom-pom or white yarn
- fine-point disappearing ink marker (optional)

project 1

bunny

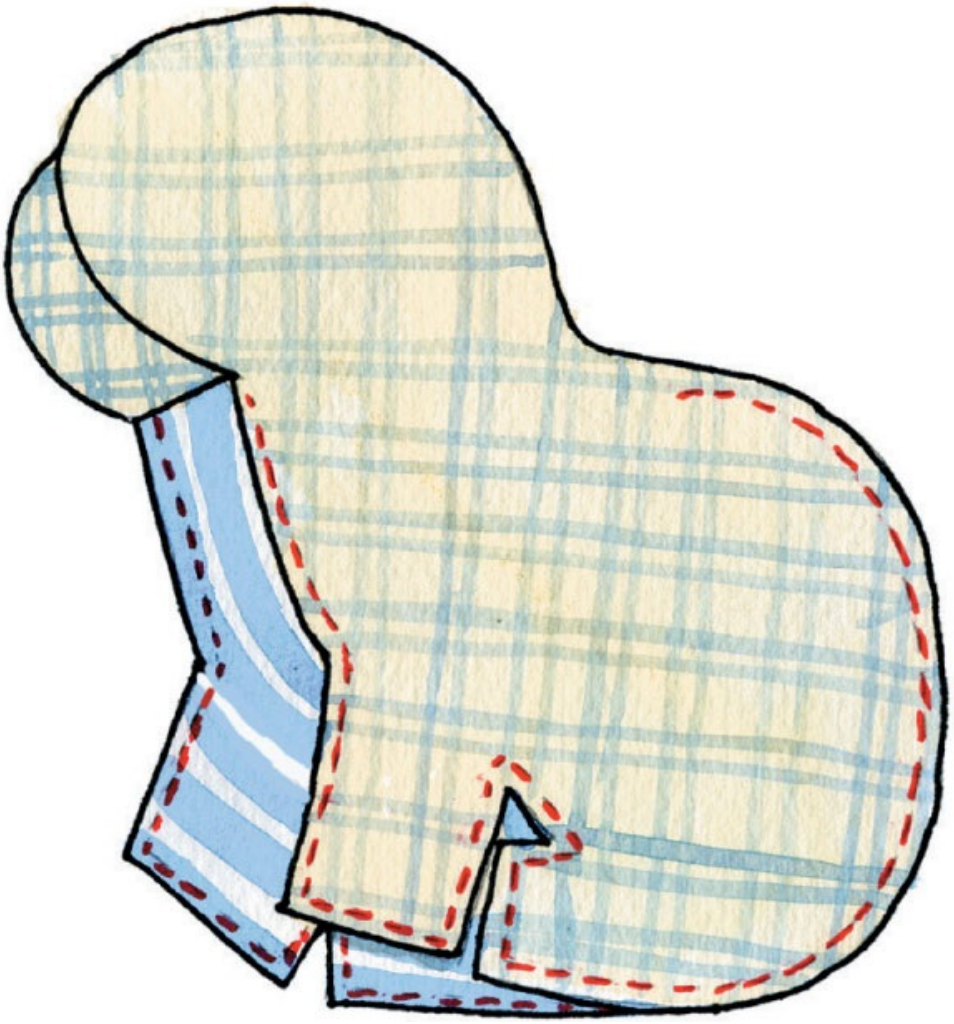
1. Cut out the patterns from the fabric. With right sides facing, align and pin the underside to one side piece. Stitch from the chest starting at the circle mark to the diamond mark at the rear (A).



(A) *Stitch underside to one body side.*

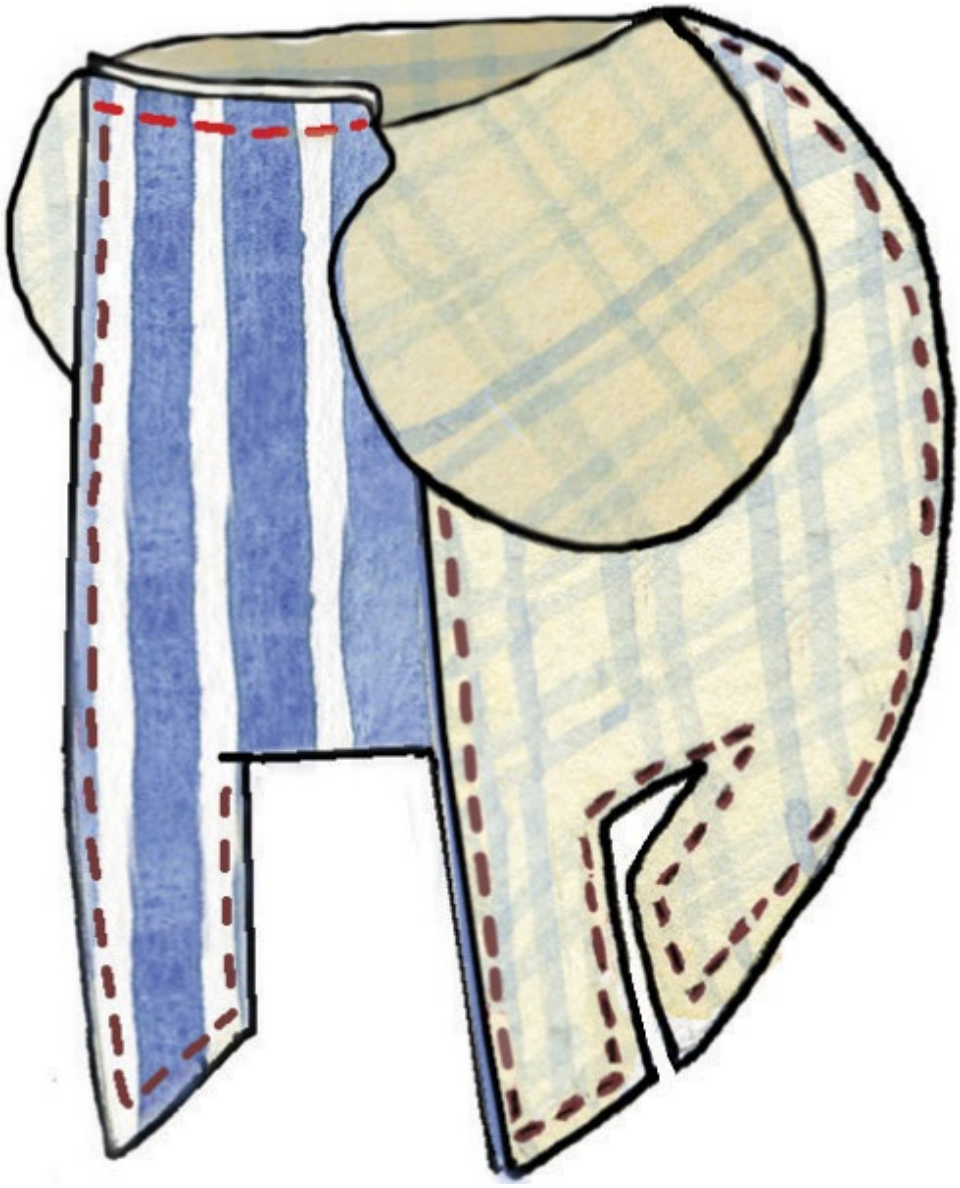
2. Repeat to attach the other side of the bunny to the underside.

3. Sew the sides together, starting at the diamond where you left off in steps 1 and 2. Stop about 1" (2.5 cm) shy of the back neck curve (B).



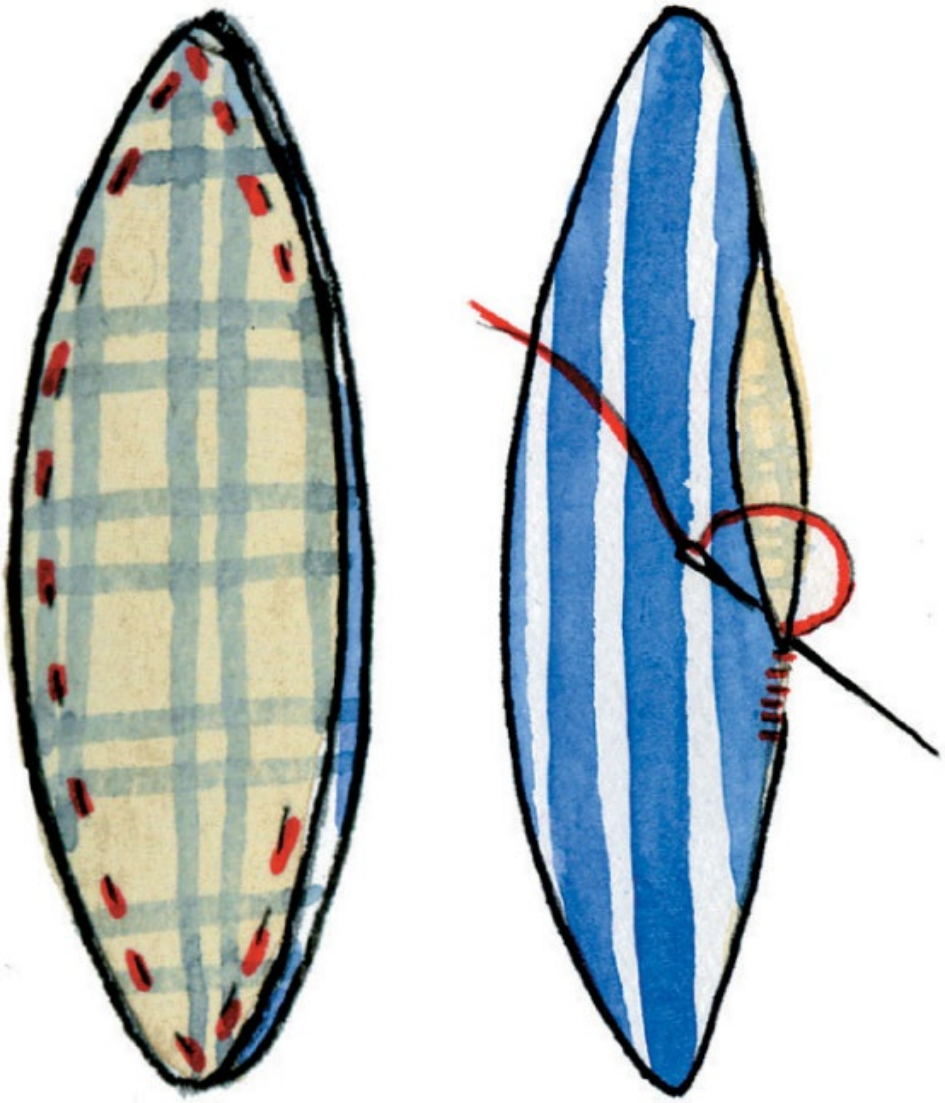
(B) *Stitch sides together.*

4. With right sides facing, align the straight edge of the face panel with the top edge of the underside as indicated by arrow; stitch straight across (C).



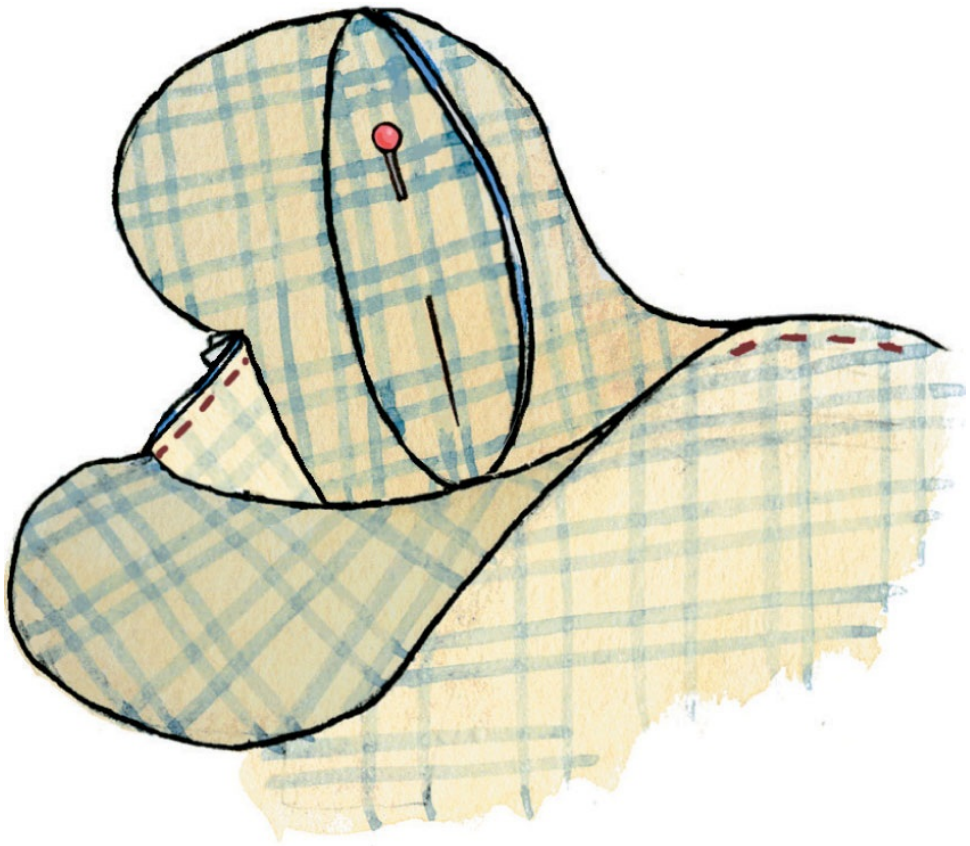
(C) *Stitch face panel to underside.*

5. Sew two ear pieces together with right sides facing and leave a 1" (2.5 cm) opening along a straighter edge. Turn right side out through the opening, and then slipstitch closed (D). Repeat for the other ear.



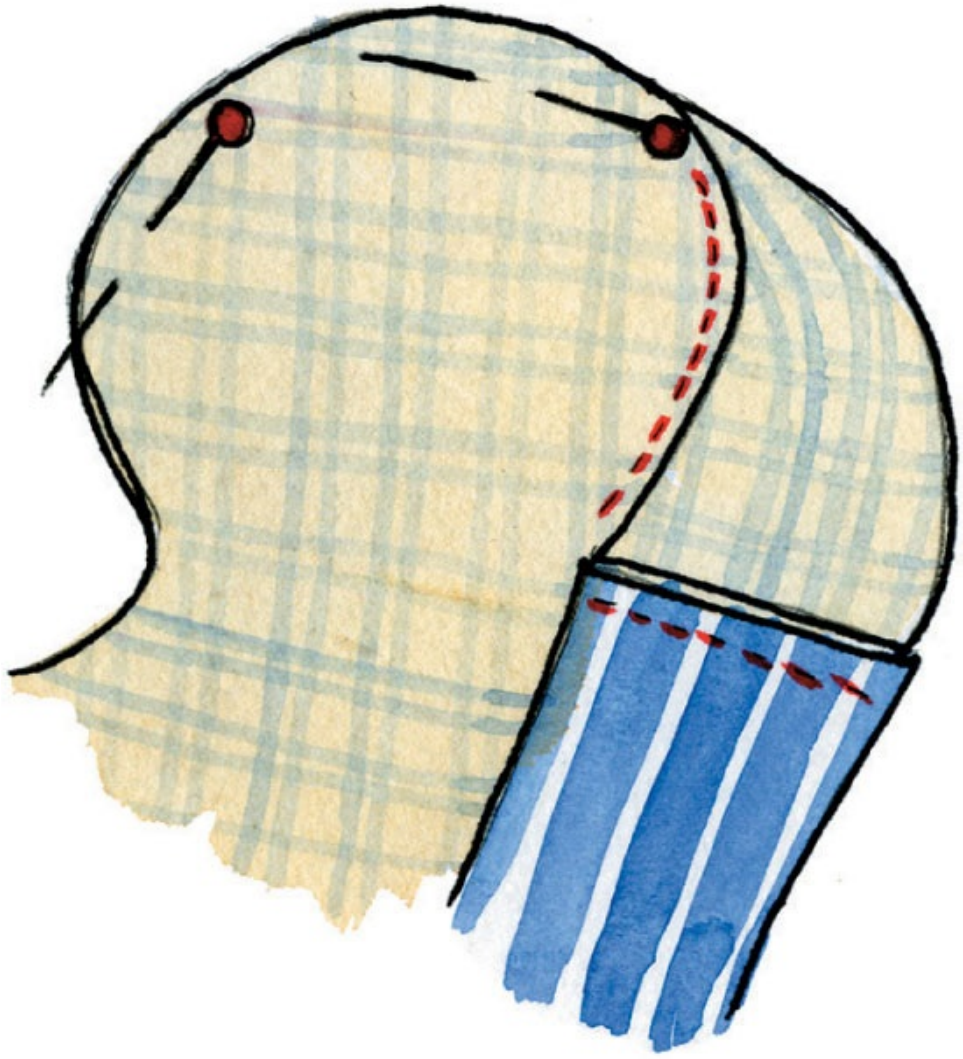
(D) *Stitch ear pieces together, turn, and stitch closed.*

6. Pin the ears where you'd like them to be on the bunny sides. Be sure to pin the inside of the ears facing the bunny (E).



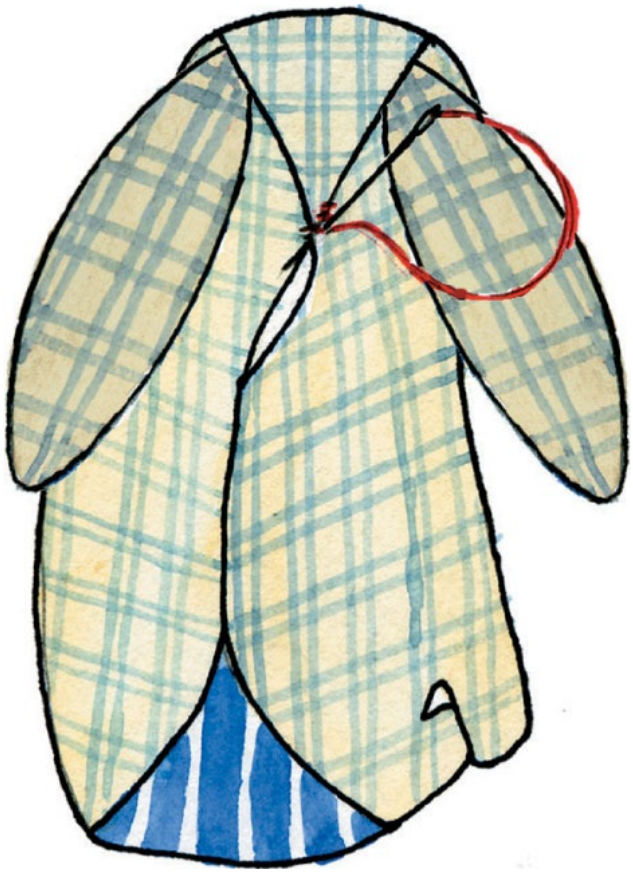
(E) *Pin ear with underside facing body.*

7. With right sides facing, align one side of the face panel with head portion of one side piece; stitch. Be sure to catch the tip of the ear as you sew (F). Repeat with the other side.



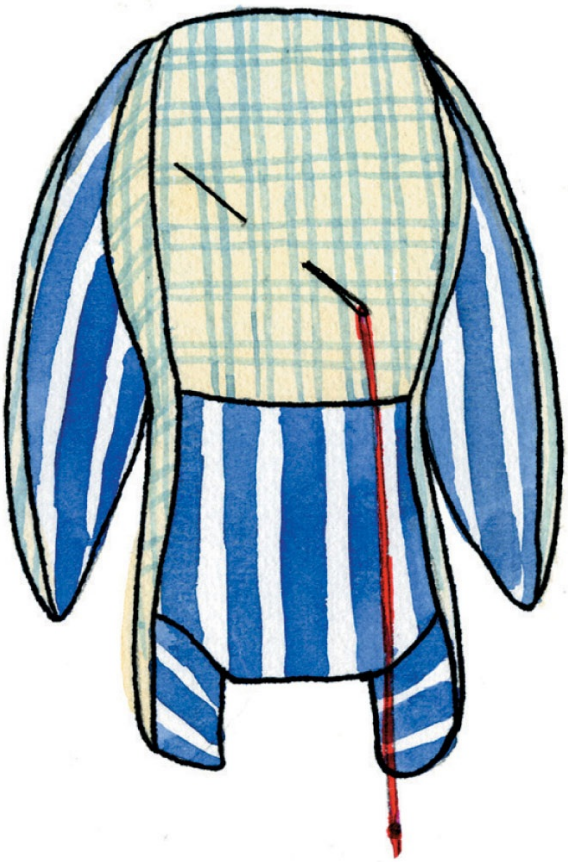
(F) *Stitch face panel to head, catching ear in stitching.*

8. Turn the bunny right side out through the 1" (2.5 cm) left unstitched when sewing the sides together; stuff. Use a slipstitch to close the opening (G).



(G) *Turn right side out, stuff, and close opening.*

9. Embroider the nose. Using six strands of pink embroidery floss, thread a needle, and tie the ends together in a knot. Push the needle through the center of the face and pull it out through the top left corner of the nose, leaving the knot exposed (H).



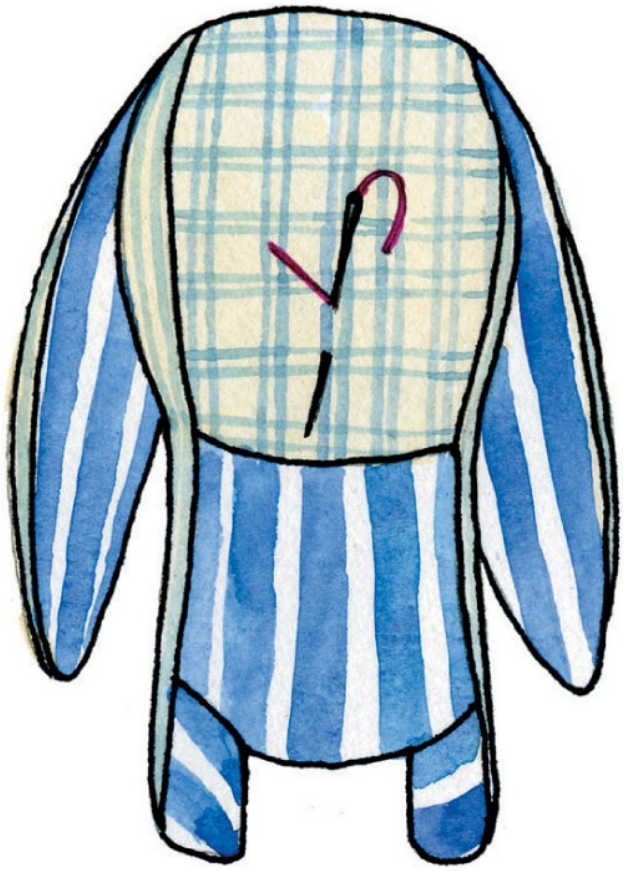
(H) *Begin embroidering nose.*

The nose is a Y shape. If you find it hard to visualize, use a fine-point disappearing ink marker to make four dots where your needle should be entering and exiting the face.

10. Push through again where the center knot is, and pull out through the top right corner of the nose (I).

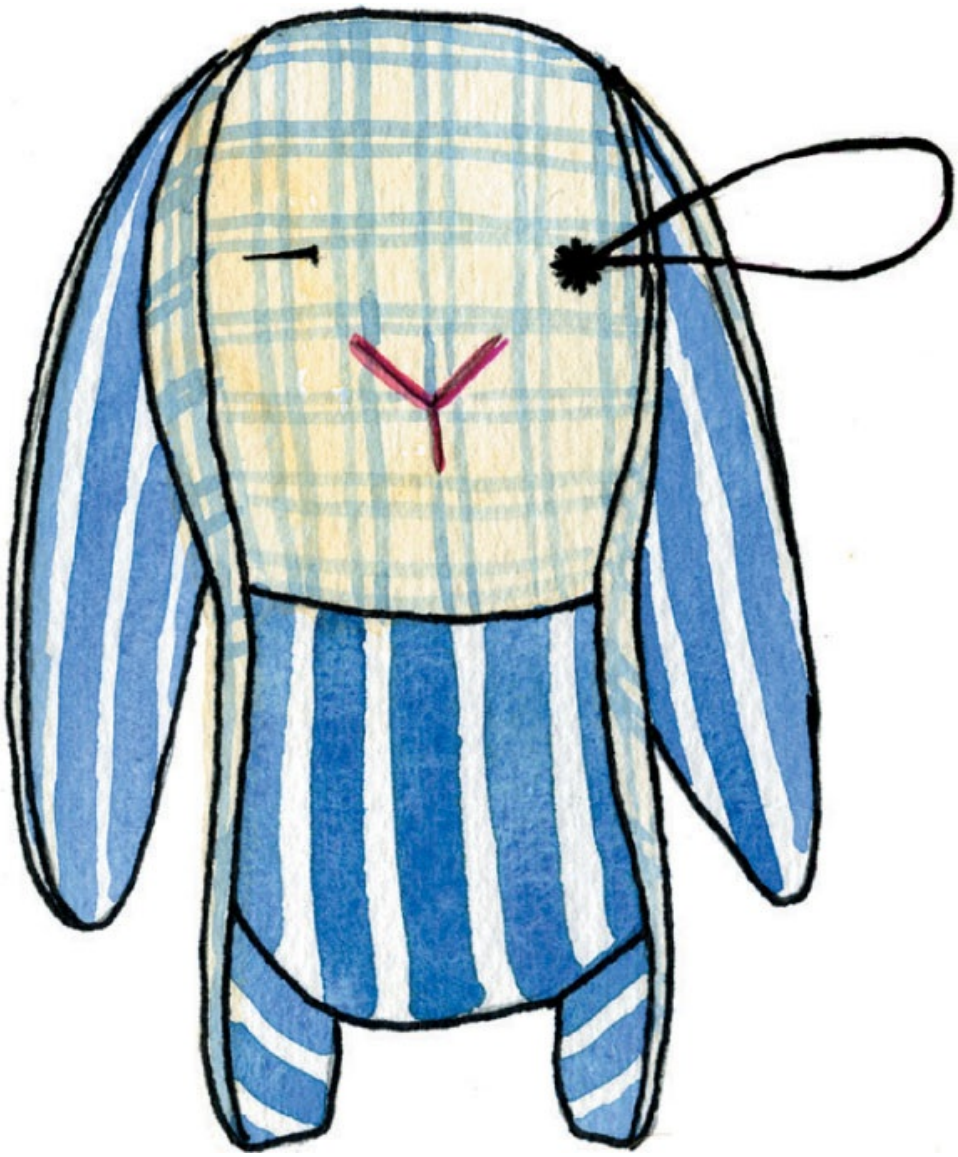
(I) *Return to center, then to other side.*

11. Return to the center and then pull the needle out at the lower point of the nose (J). Push the needle in and out through the center one more time. Tie off with a double knot and clip threads close to the knot.



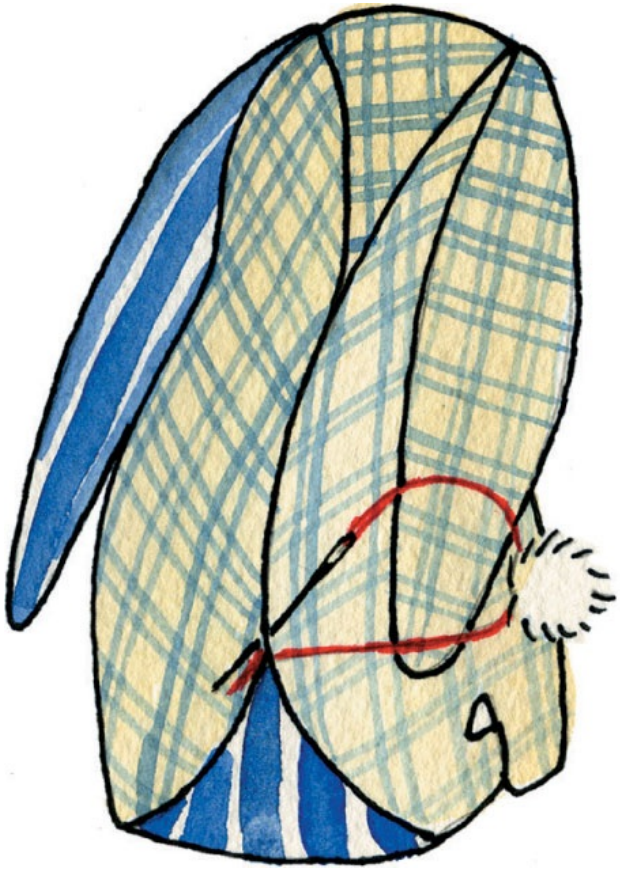
(J) *Return to center, then stitch bottom portion.*

12. Using black embroidery floss, anchor your thread where you would like one eye to be. Make several small stitches in the form of an asterisk with your anchor knot as the center. Instead of tying off, push your needle out to the opposite side of the face for the other eye. Make small stitches in the form of an asterisk, and then tie off with a knot in the center (K).

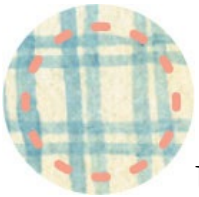


(K) *Embroider eyes.*

13. At the bunny's rear end where the sides and underside intersect, anchor your all-purpose thread by making several small stitches. Pass the needle through the pom-pom and bunny body several times to firmly attach the tail (L); tie off and snip the thread.



(L) *Attach pom-pom.*



Use a store-bought pom-pom for the tail, or make your own. Use this method or a simple pom-pom maker and some white yarn. Cut a strip of cardboard the desired diameter of the pompom. Generously wrap yarn around the cardboard. Thread a large needle with a length of yarn, pass the yarn under the wrapped threads along one edge of the cardboard, and then tie the yarn securely around the threads. Cut the wrapped threads along the opposite edge of the cardboard. Fluff out the yarns, and trim into a rounded shape.

project 2

narwhal

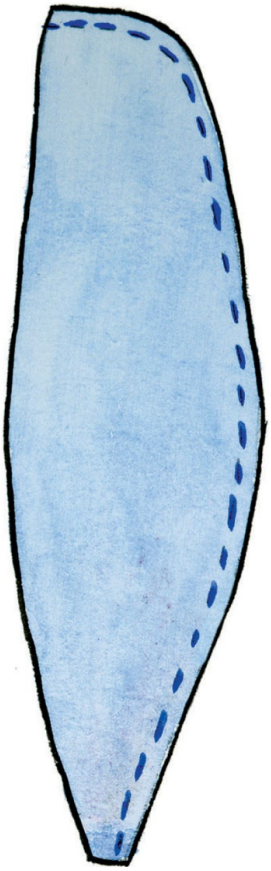
A cute and curious creature of the sea. Choose a material with a slight stretch as the main fabric to lend a curve to the narwhal's body, or stick to a woven cotton if you'd like your narwhal to lie flat.

Size of narwhal shown: 11" (27.9 cm) from tusk to tail
Use patterns on page 120 at 200%.

MATERIALS

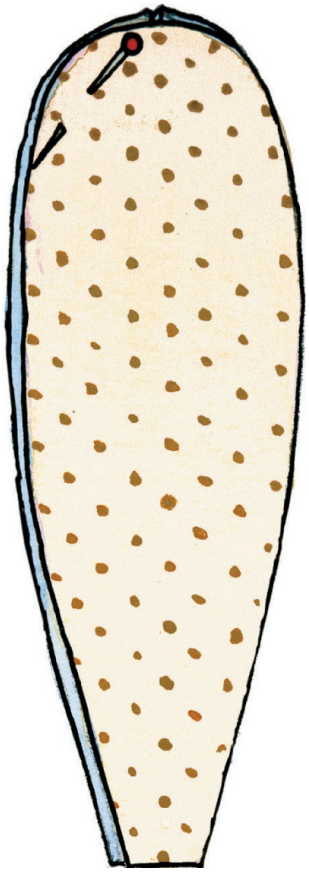
- medium-weight cotton fabrics
- fabric with slight stretch (optional)
- felt for tusk
- fiberfill
- all-purpose sewing thread
- black embroidery floss

1. Cut out the patterns from the fabric. With right sides together, stitch along the top edge of the narwhal's side pieces as indicated by arrow (A).



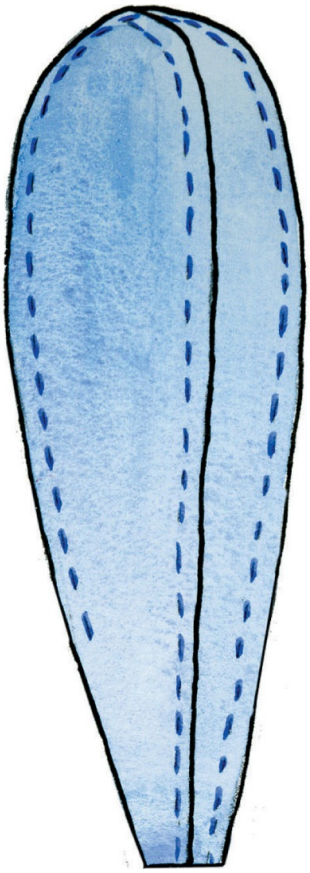
(A) *Stitch sides together.*

2. Fold the underside piece in half lengthwise to establish the center or refer to the circles marked on each end of the pattern. With the right sides facing, align the center of the underside with the seam you created when sewing the sides together, pin along the edges (B).



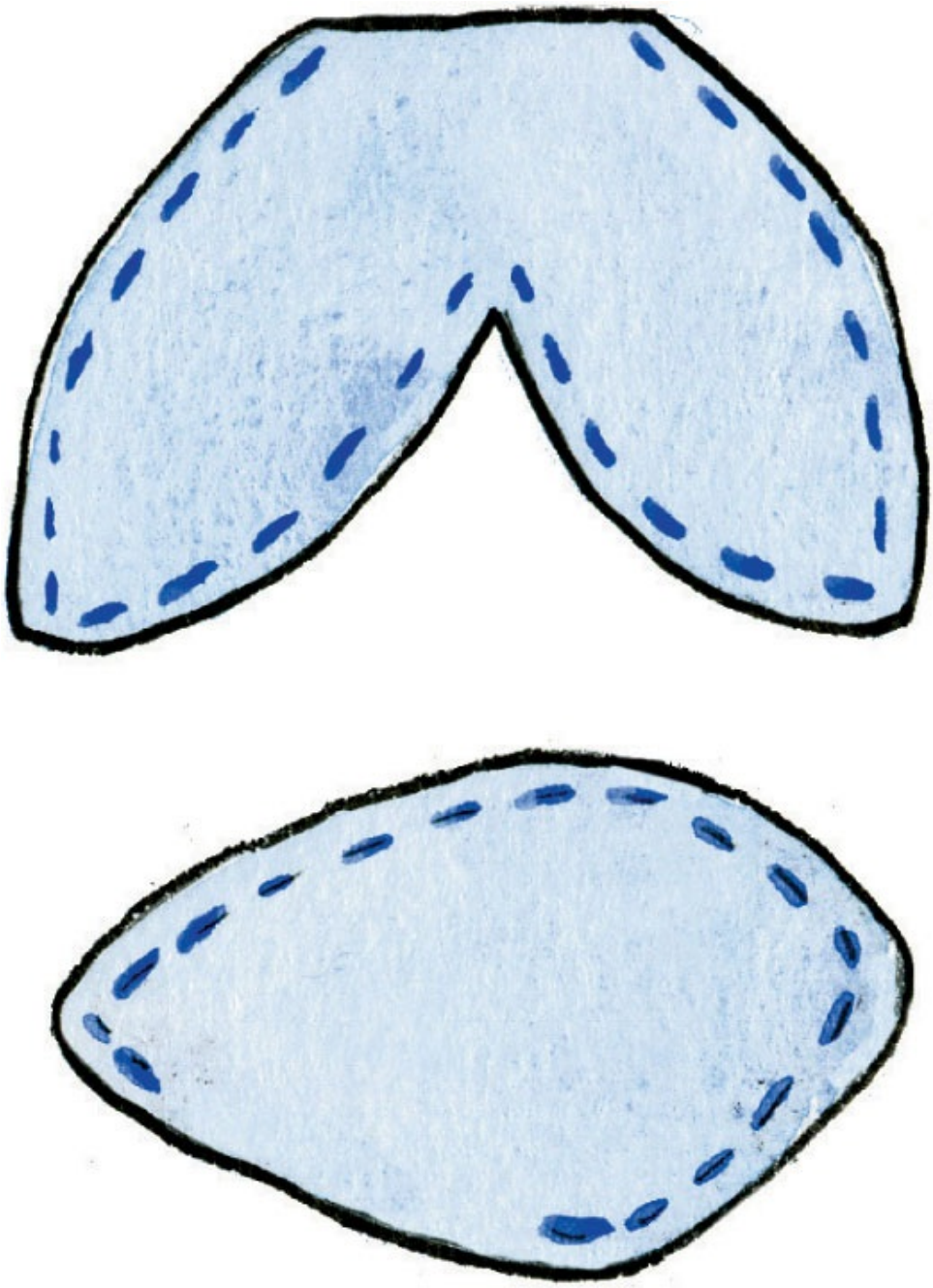
(B) *Pin underside to joined sides.*

3. Stitch the underside to the sides, leaving a 1" (2.5 cm) opening on one side (C). The opening will allow you to turn the narwhal right side out.



(C) *Stitch; leave opening for turning.*

4. Stitch the tail pieces together, leaving the straight edge of the tail open. Stitch the fin pieces together, leaving a 1/2" (1.3 cm) opening on both fins (D). Turn the tail and fins right side out through the openings. Stuff the tail and set aside. Use a slipstitch to close the fins.

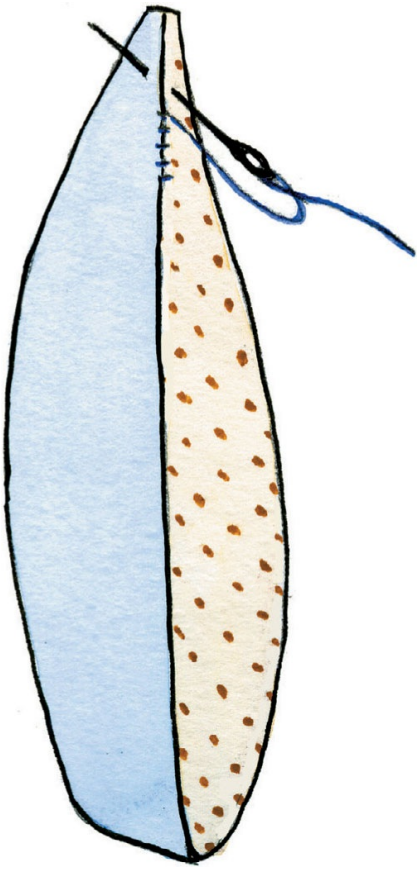


(D) *Stitch tail and fins, leaving an opening.*

5. For the tusk, fold the triangular felt piece in half lengthwise and machine stitch, or backstitch by hand, the long edges together (E). It's best to use felt for the tusk as the edges will be left raw.

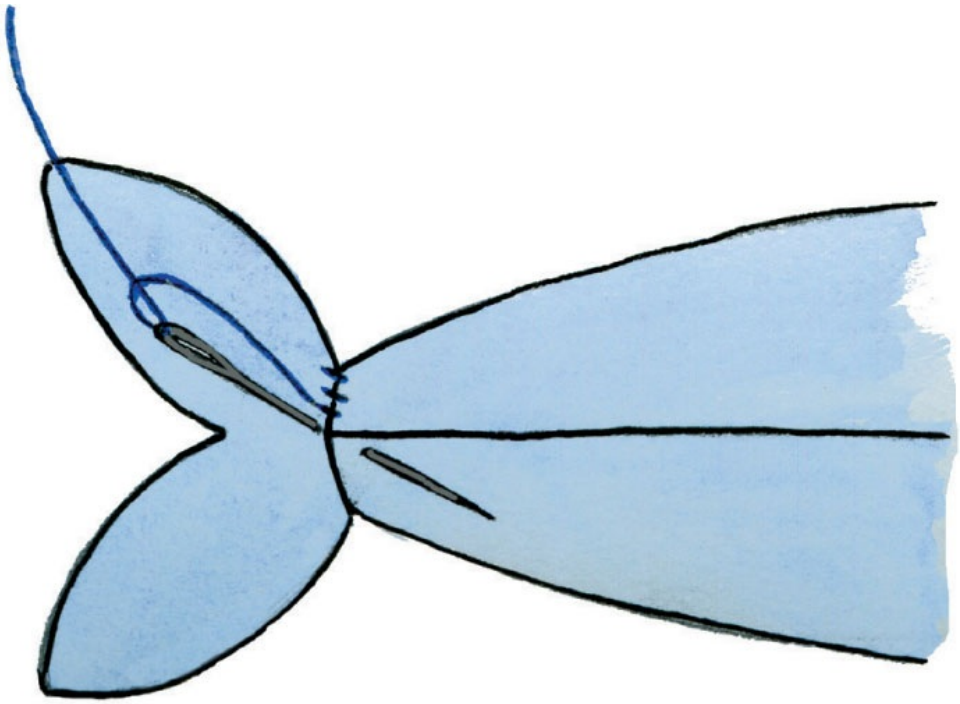
(E) *Fold and stitch tusk.*

6. Turn the body right-side out. Stuff the body and slipstitch closed (F).



(F) *Turn right side out, stuff, and close opening.*

7. Pin and then slipstitch the tail onto the narwhal body (G).

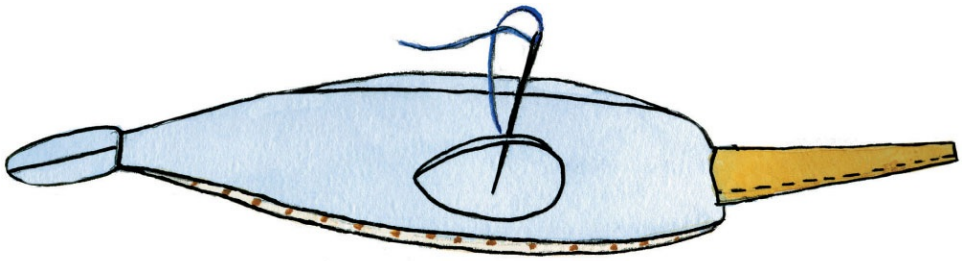


(G) *Attach tail to body.*

8. Attach the tusk. Thread a needle with all-purpose sewing thread and tie in a knot at one end. Anchor the thread by pulling it through the center of the narwhal's face several times. Pin the tusk to the center of the face. You may need several pins in different directions to stabilize the tusk. Securely stitch around the base of the tusk (H).

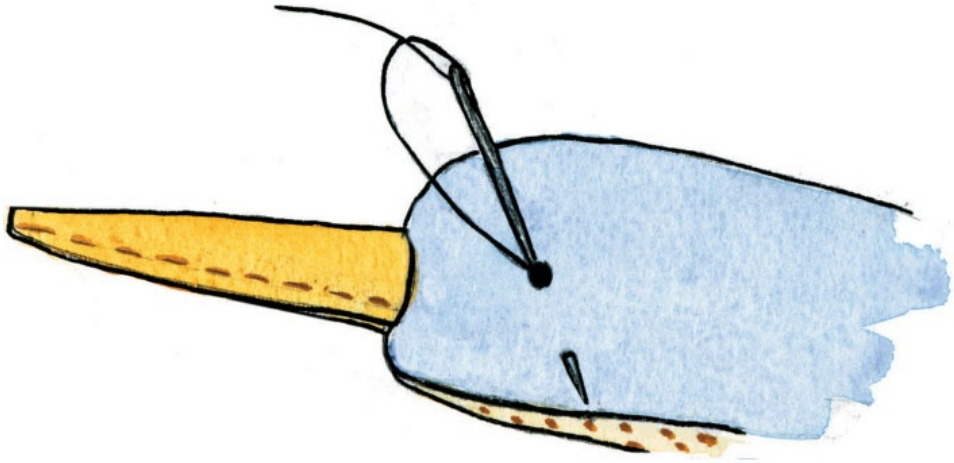
(H) *Stitch tusk to face.*

9. To attach a fin, first anchor your thread on the body where you would like your fin. Stitch the fin to the body, keeping the stitches in the inner layer of fabric (I). Repeat to attach the remaining fin to the other side of the body.



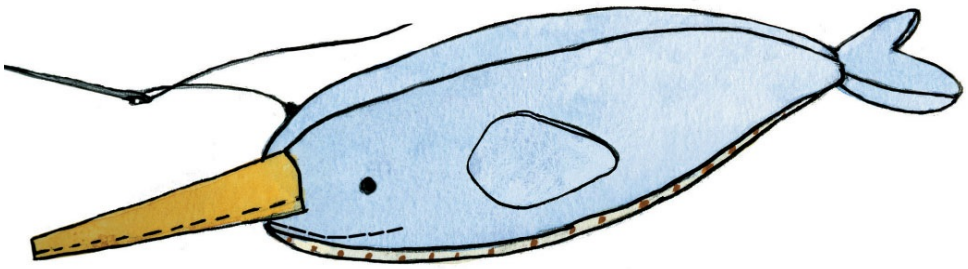
(I) *Attach fins to sides of body, hiding stitching.*

10. Stitch the face using black embroidery floss, knotting one end. Anchor the floss where you would like an eye to be. Make several small stitches in the form of an asterisk with the knot as the center; don't tie off the thread (J).



(J) *Embroider one eye.*

11. Push your needle out slightly below the eye. Backstitch around to the opposite side to form the narwhal smile. Push your needle out slightly above the last stitch of the smile, exactly opposite the first eye. Make small stitches in the form of an asterisk, and then tie off with a knot in the center (K).



(K) *Embroider mouth and other eye.*

project 3

dachshund

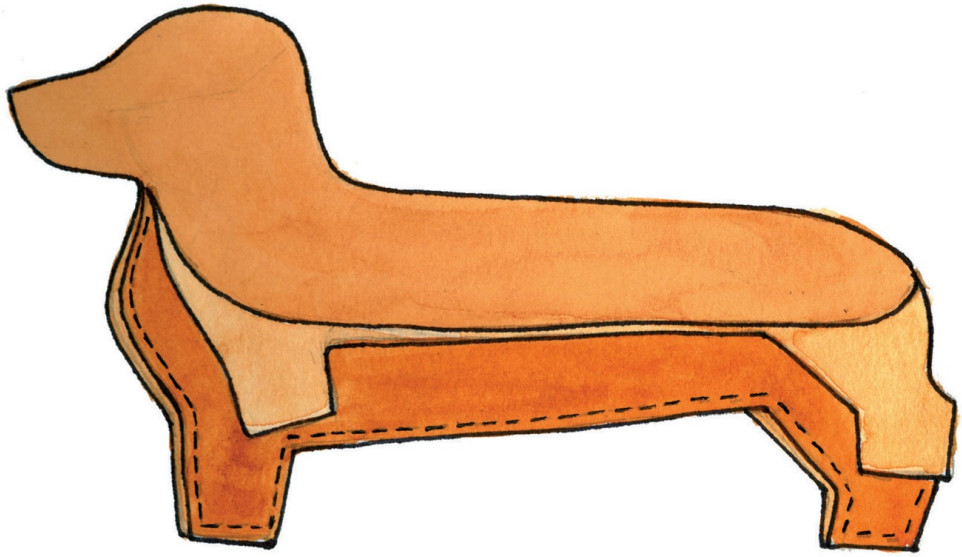
This is the first stuffed-animal pattern I made, inspired by my dachshund, Ollie!

Size of dachshund shown: 3-1/2" (8.9 cm) tall
Use patterns on page 121 at 200%.

MATERIALS

- medium-weight cotton, wool, or felt fabric
- all-purpose sewing thread
- black embroidery floss
- fiberfill

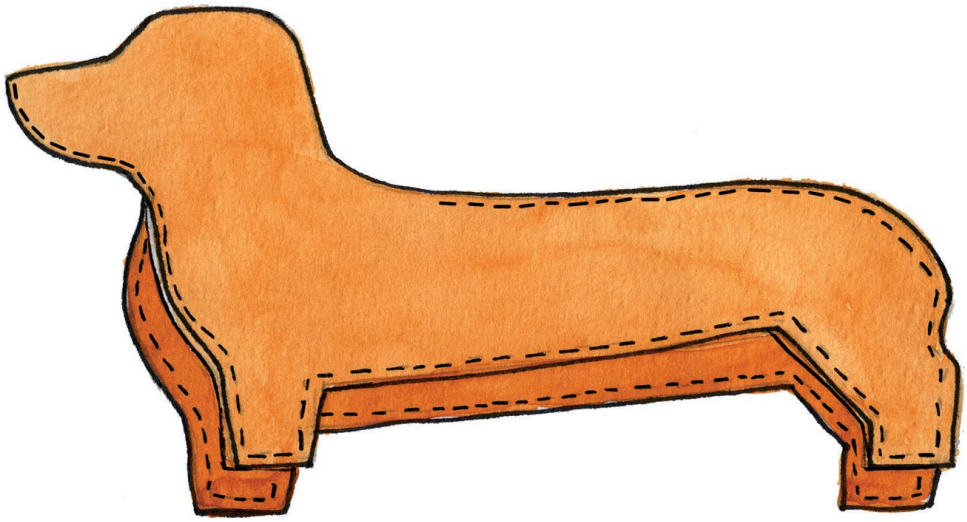
1. Cut out the patterns from the fabric. With right sides facing, align and pin the underside to one side piece. Stitch from the circle mark at the chest to the diamond mark at the rear (A).



(A) *Sew underside to one body side.*

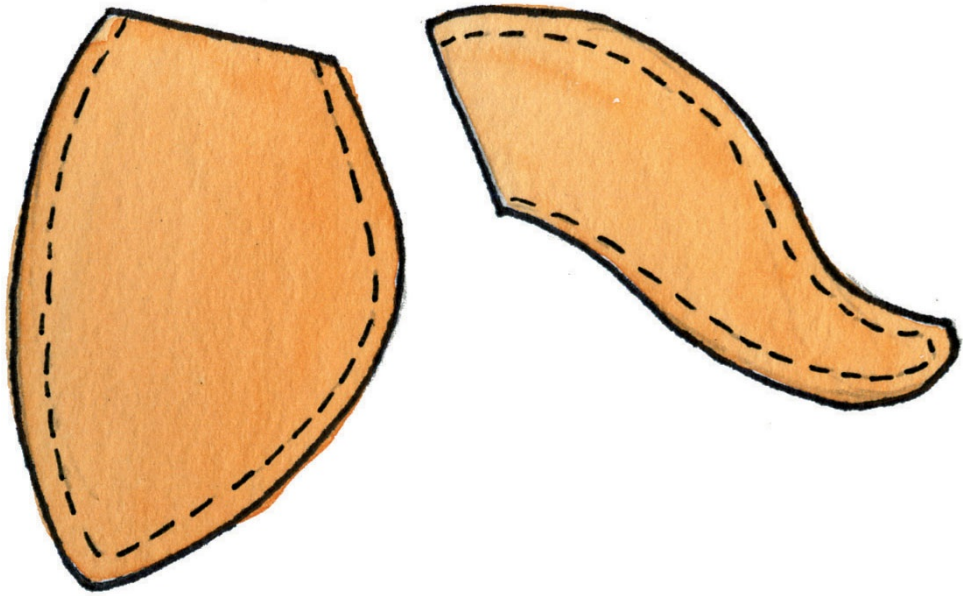
2. Repeat to attach the other side of the dachshund.

3. Sew the sides together, starting where you left off in steps 1 and 2, and stopping about 3/4" (1.9 cm) shy of the neck curve and at the tip of the nose (B).



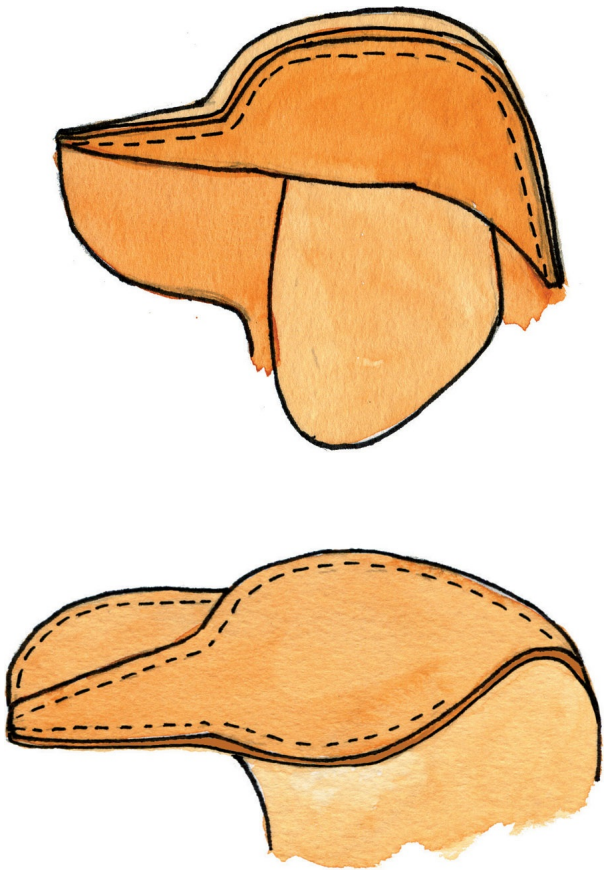
(B) *Stitch sides together.*

4. Stitch two ear pieces together, leaving the straight edge unsewn. Repeat for the other ear. Stitch the tail pieces together, leaving the straight edge unsewn (C). Turn each right side out through the opening.



(C) *Stitch ear and tail pieces.*

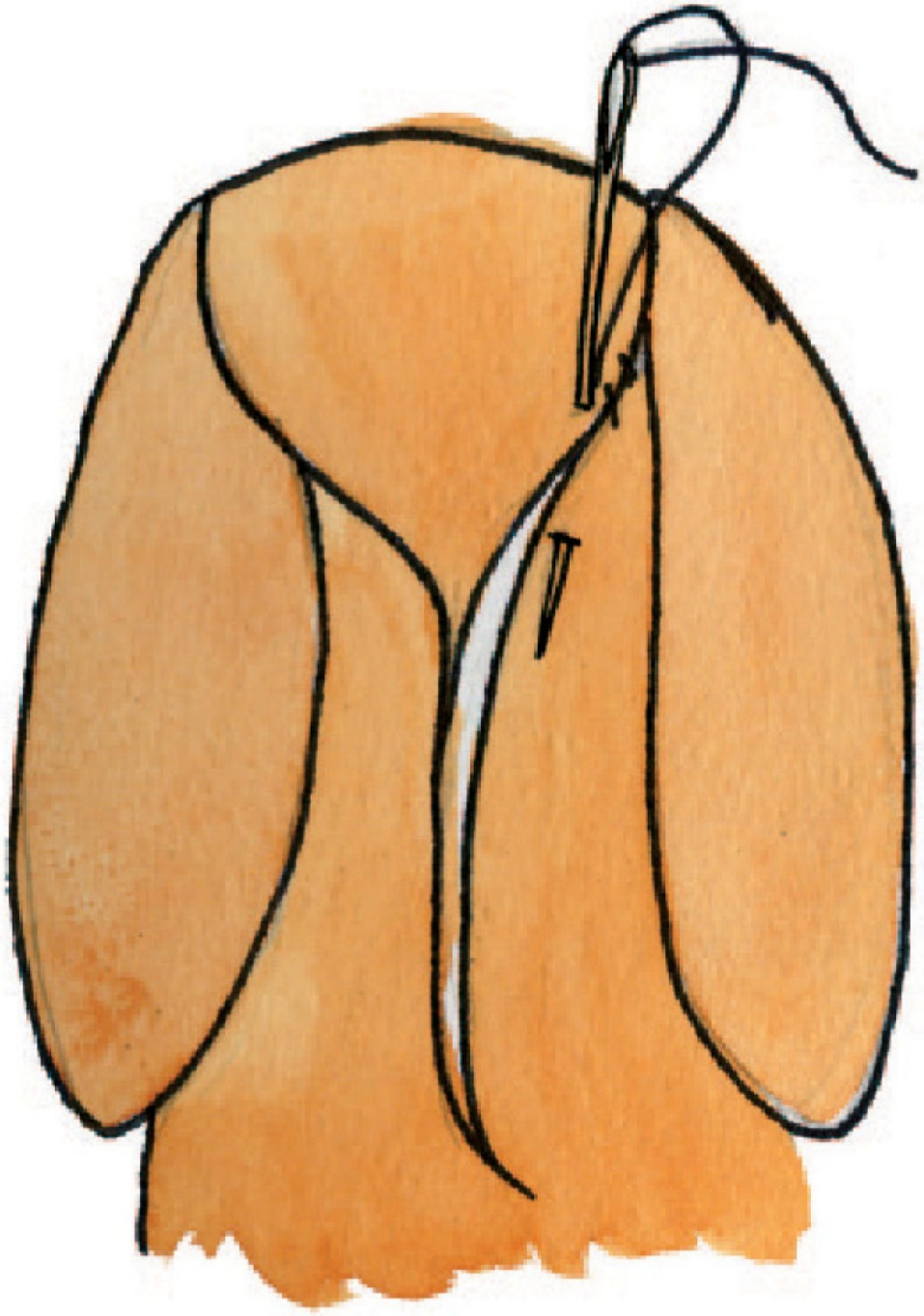
5. Pin the ears to the dachshund with the opening edges even with the top of the head. Be sure to pin the inside of the ears facing the right side of the body. With right sides facing, align one side of the face panel with head portion of one side piece. Stitch from the snout to the back of the head (D). Be sure to catch the ear in the seam as you sew.



(D) *Pin ears in place; stitch face panel to head.*

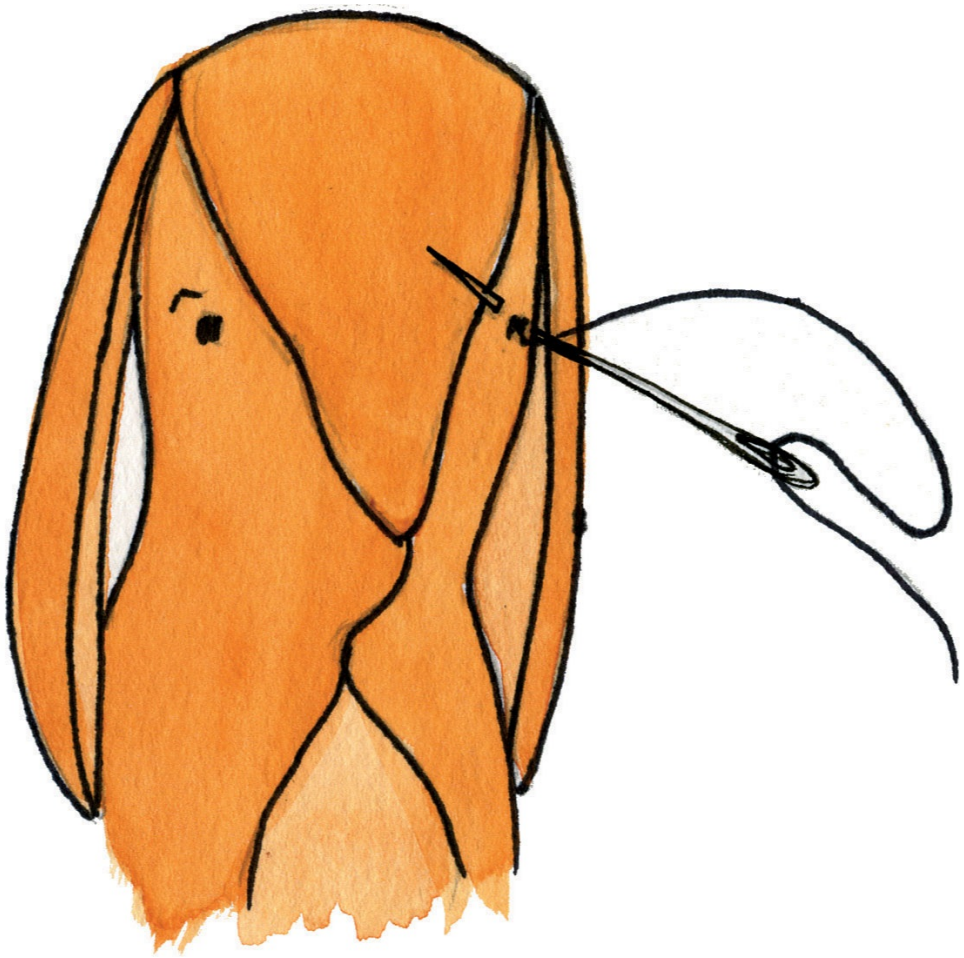
6. Stitch the other side of the face panel in the same manner, but this time stop after you've finished sewing across the ear. This will provide additional space for turning right side out.

7. Turn right side out and stuff the dachshund. Use a slipstitch to close the opening (E).



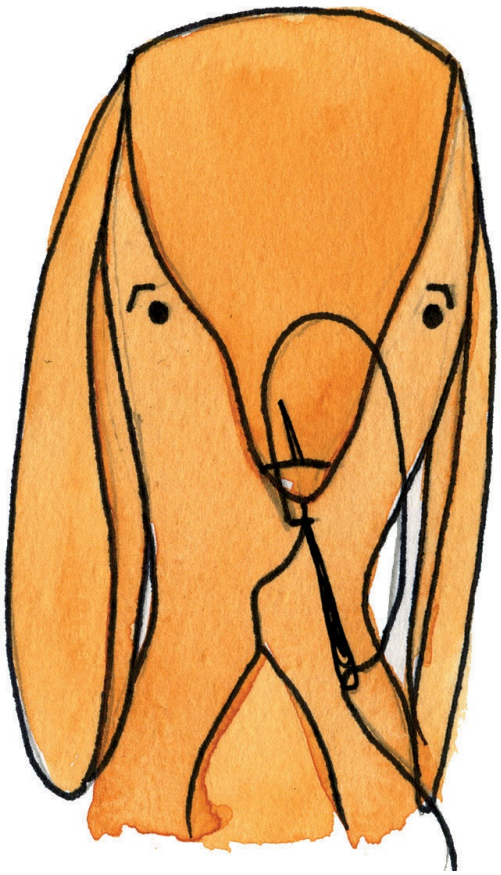
(E) *Turn right side out; stitch opening.*

8. Thread a needle with black embroidery floss and knot one end. Anchor your thread where you would like an eye to be. Make several small stitches in the form of an asterisk, with your anchor knot as the center. Then, push the needle out above the eye and make two small eyebrow stitches in an upside-down V shape. Push your needle out to the opposite side of the face, make small stitches in the form of an asterisk for the other eye, and then sew two small eyebrow stitches (F). Tie off the thread with a knot in the center of the eye and slip off close to the knot.



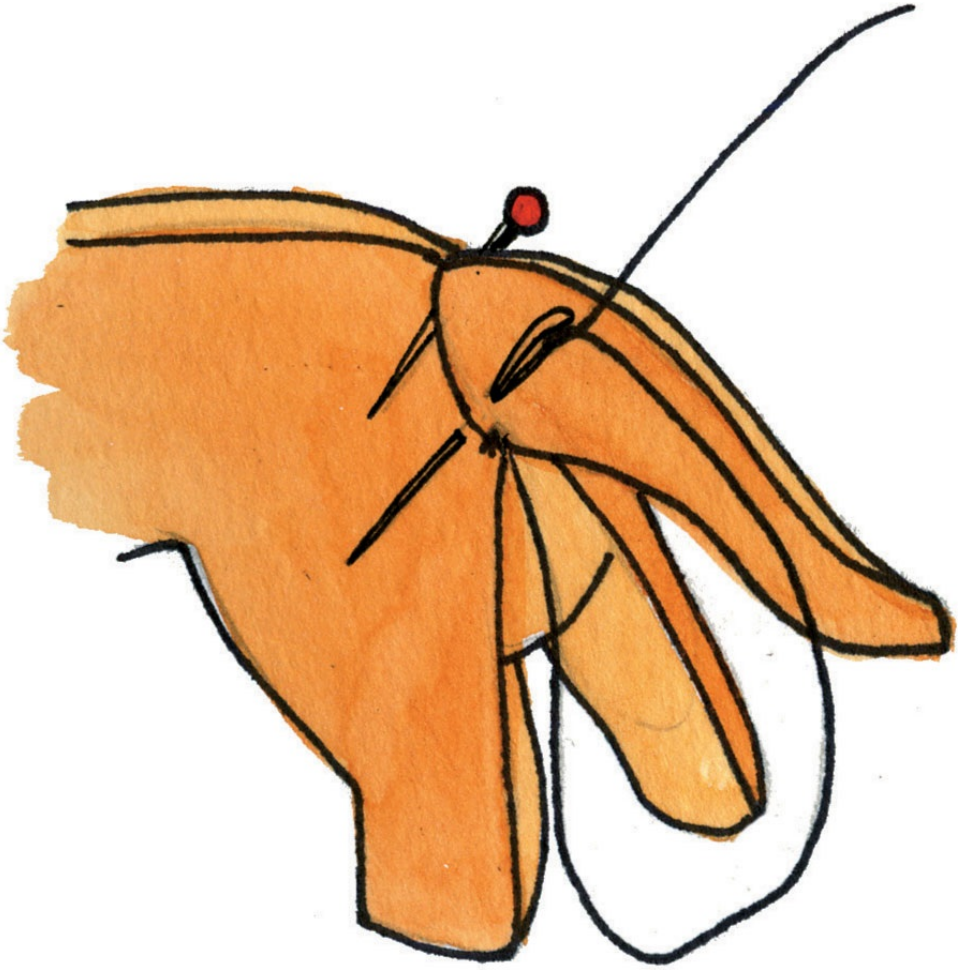
(F) *Embroider eyes and eyebrows.*

9. Use black embroidery floss to stitch the nose. Make one long horizontal stitch to mark the top of the nose, and one smaller horizontal stitch to mark the bottom. Make vertical stitches between the top and bottom stitches until the area is covered (G). Tie off the thread and clip close to the knot.



(G) *Embroider nose.*

10. At the dachshund's rear end where the two sides and underside intersect, anchor all-purpose thread by making several small stitches. Pin the tail in position and slipstitch to the body (H).



(H) *Attach tail.*

project 4

squirrel

This bushy-tailed fellow offers up an acorn or a colorful bouquet of flowers.

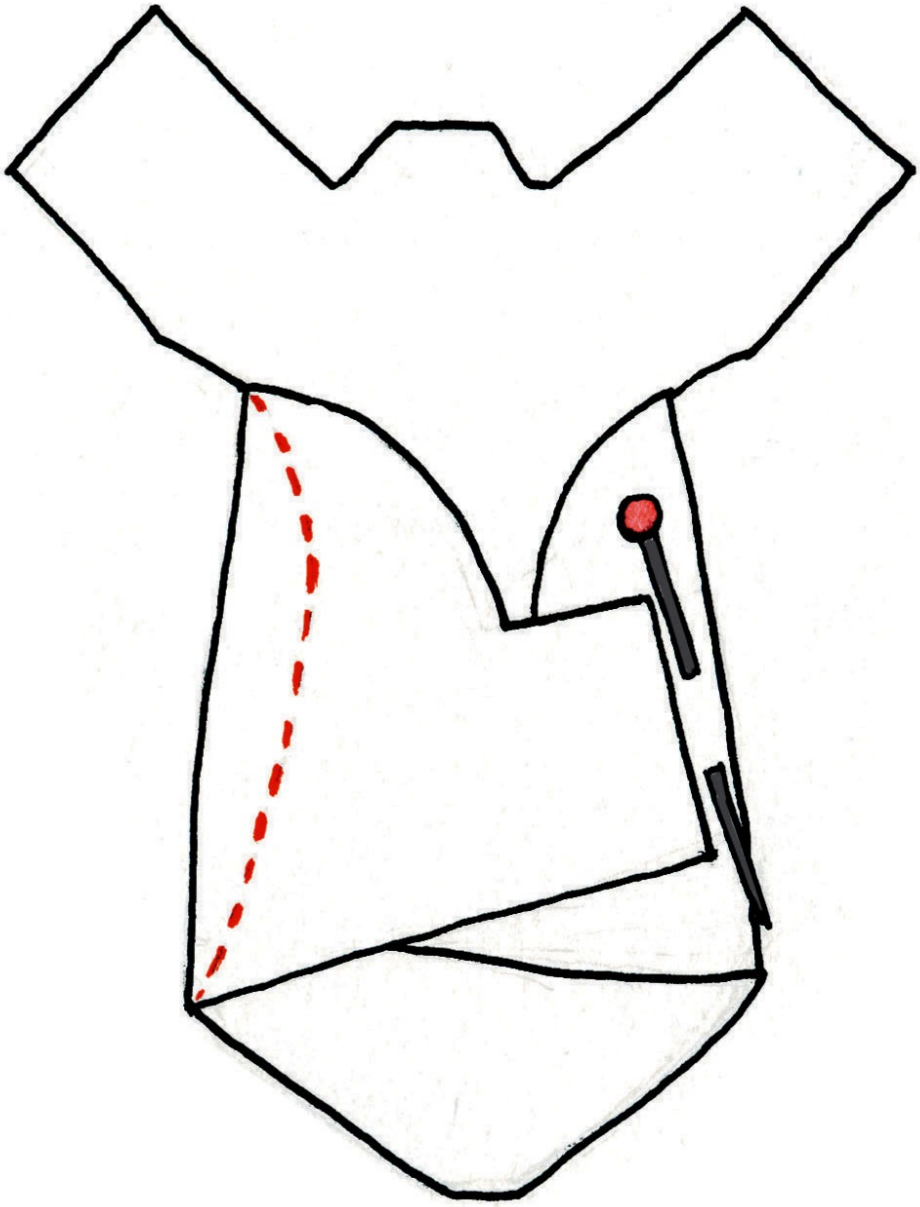
Size of squirrel shown: 4" (10.2 cm) tall
Use patterns on page 121 at 200%.

MATERIALS

- medium-weight cotton fabrics
- heavy-weight cotton fabric for acorn top
- all-purpose sewing thread
- black embroidery floss
- brown yarn for acorn stem
- fiberfill
- fabric confetti (optional)

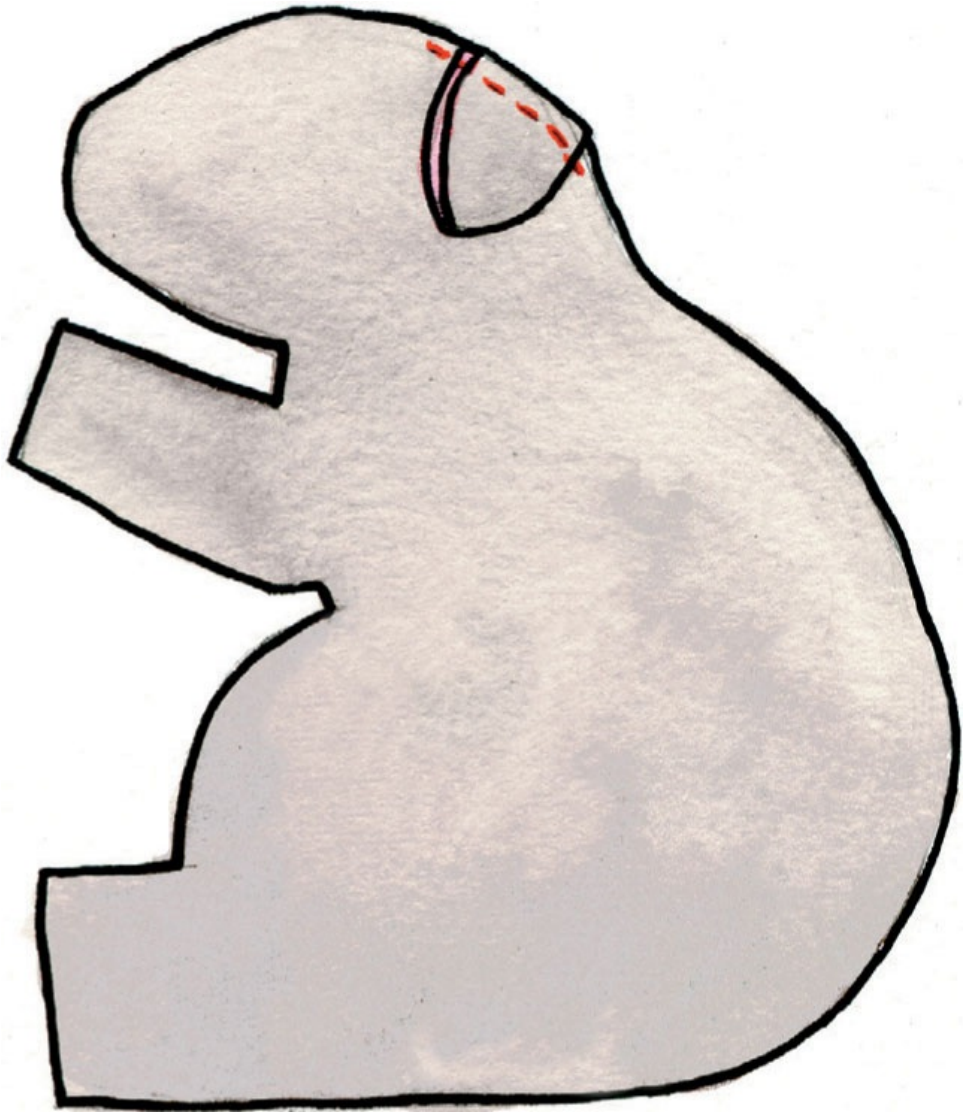
green yarn (optional)

1. With the right side of the underside piece facing up, fold the legs inward as indicated by the dashed line on the pattern. Stitch from one corner of the fold to the other in a crescent shape (A). The widest part of the crescent should be 3/8" (1 cm). Repeat on the opposite leg. Take care not to catch the other leg in the stitching while repeating this step.



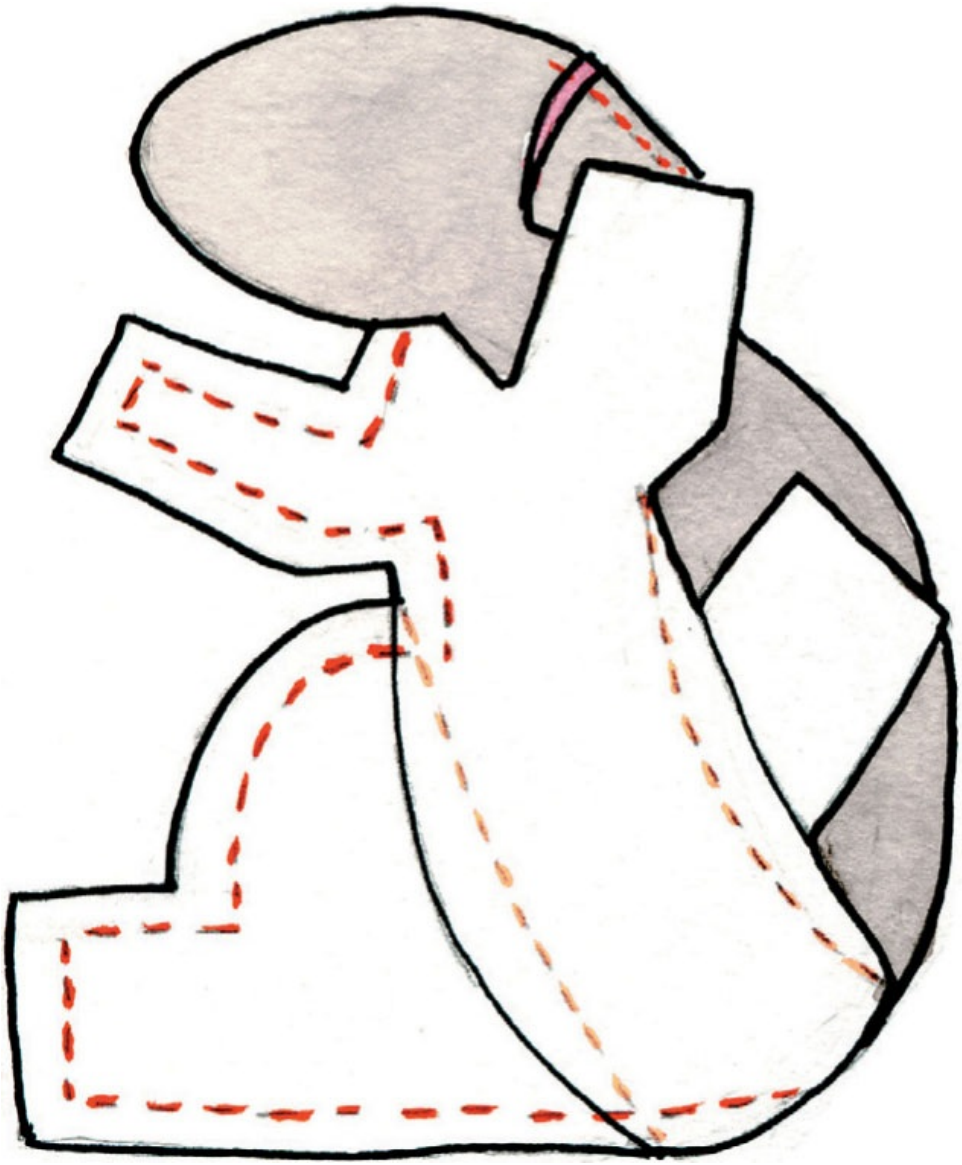
(A) *Fold in legs and stitch a crescent-shaped seam.*

2. Sew two ear pieces together, leaving the straight edge unsewn; turn right side out. Repeat for the other ear. Center an ear at the notch indicated on the head portion of the side piece and stitch in place (B). Repeat for the opposite side.



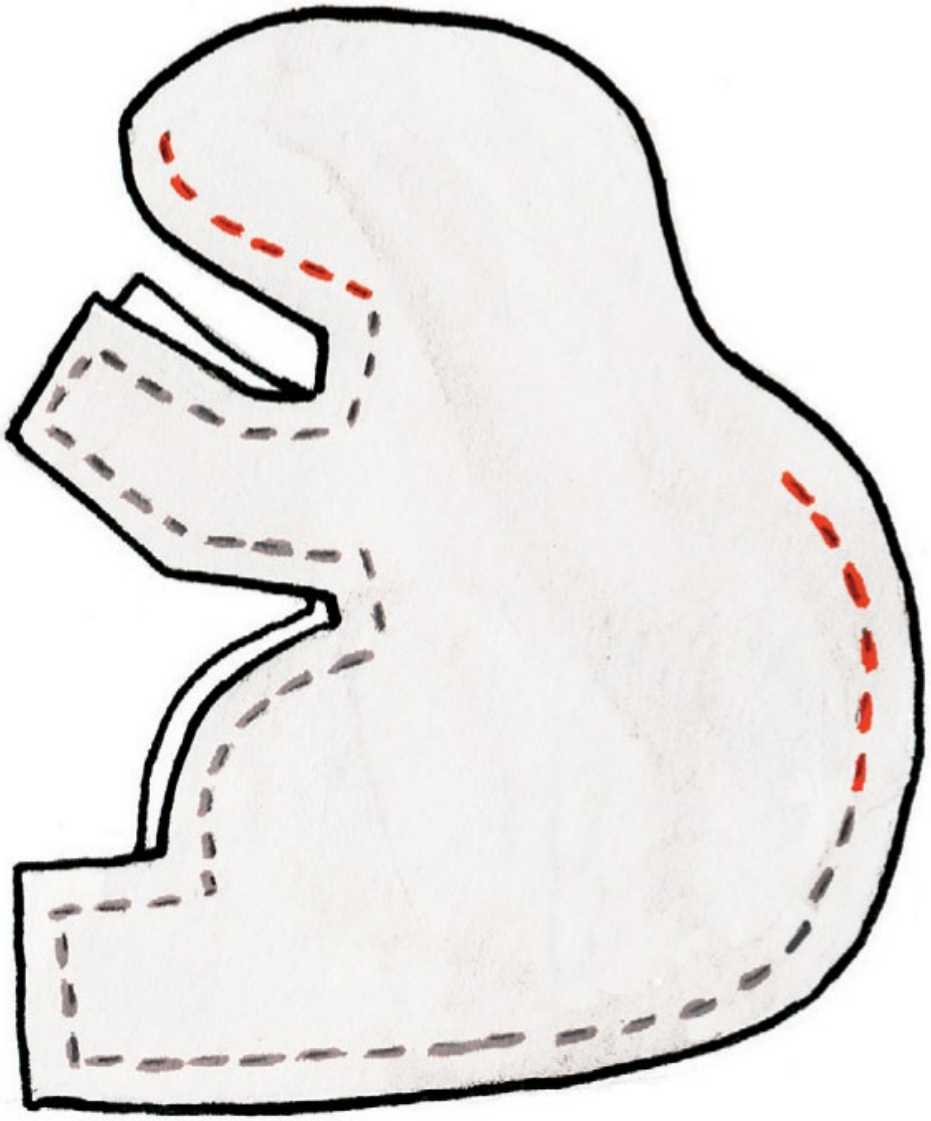
(B) *Sew ear together; attach to side at notch.*

3. Align and pin the underside to one side piece. Stitch from the circle mark at the neck to the diamond mark at the rear (C). Repeat with the other side.



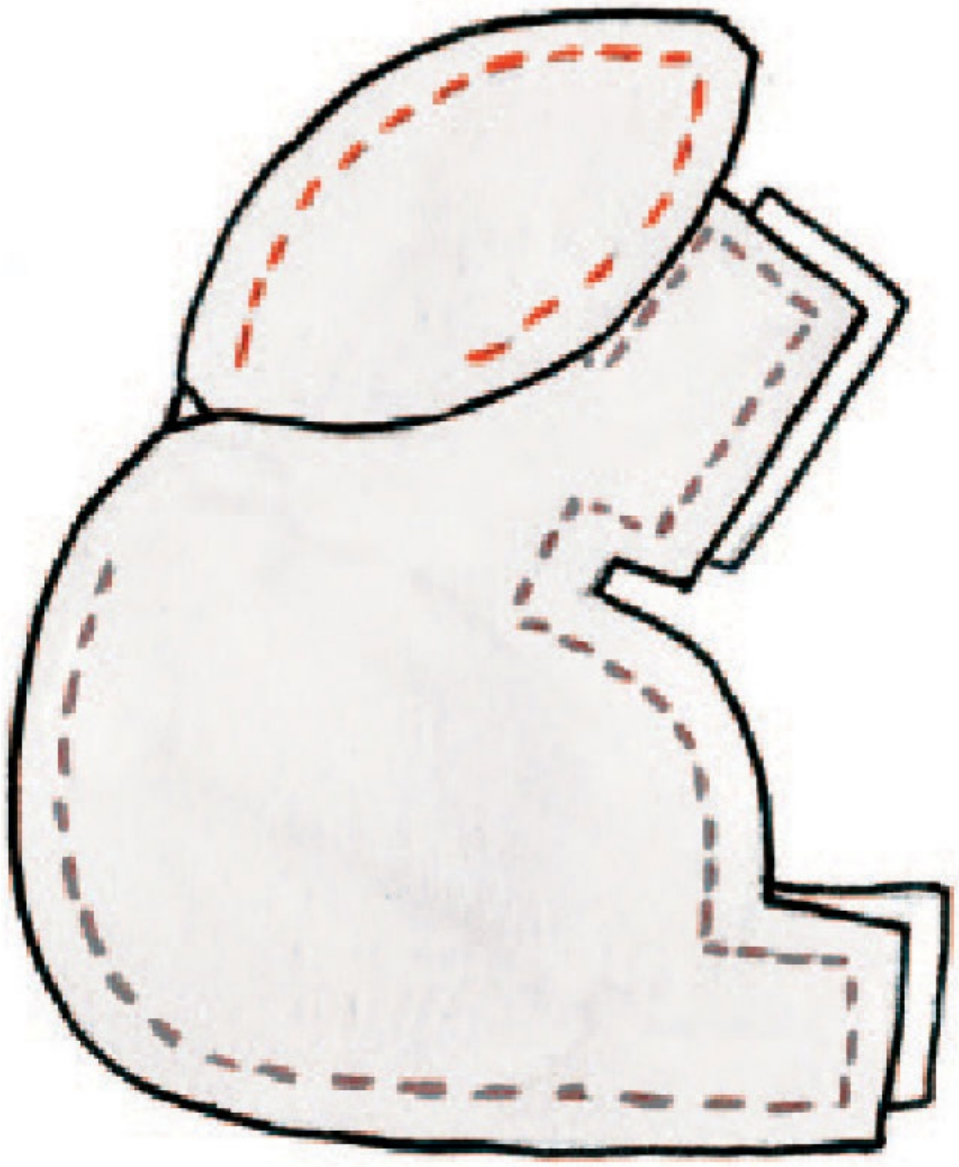
(C) *Stitch underside to one body side.*

4. Stitch the sides together from the neck circle mark to the nose. Next, stitch the sides together from the diamond mark up the curve of the back, stopping before the curve of the neck (D).



(D) *Stitch sides together along back and chin.*

5. Attach the head panel to the sides. On one side of the head, stitch from the nose to the back of the head. Repeat on the other side, but this time stop just after the ear. This will leave an opening to turn the squirrel right side out (E).

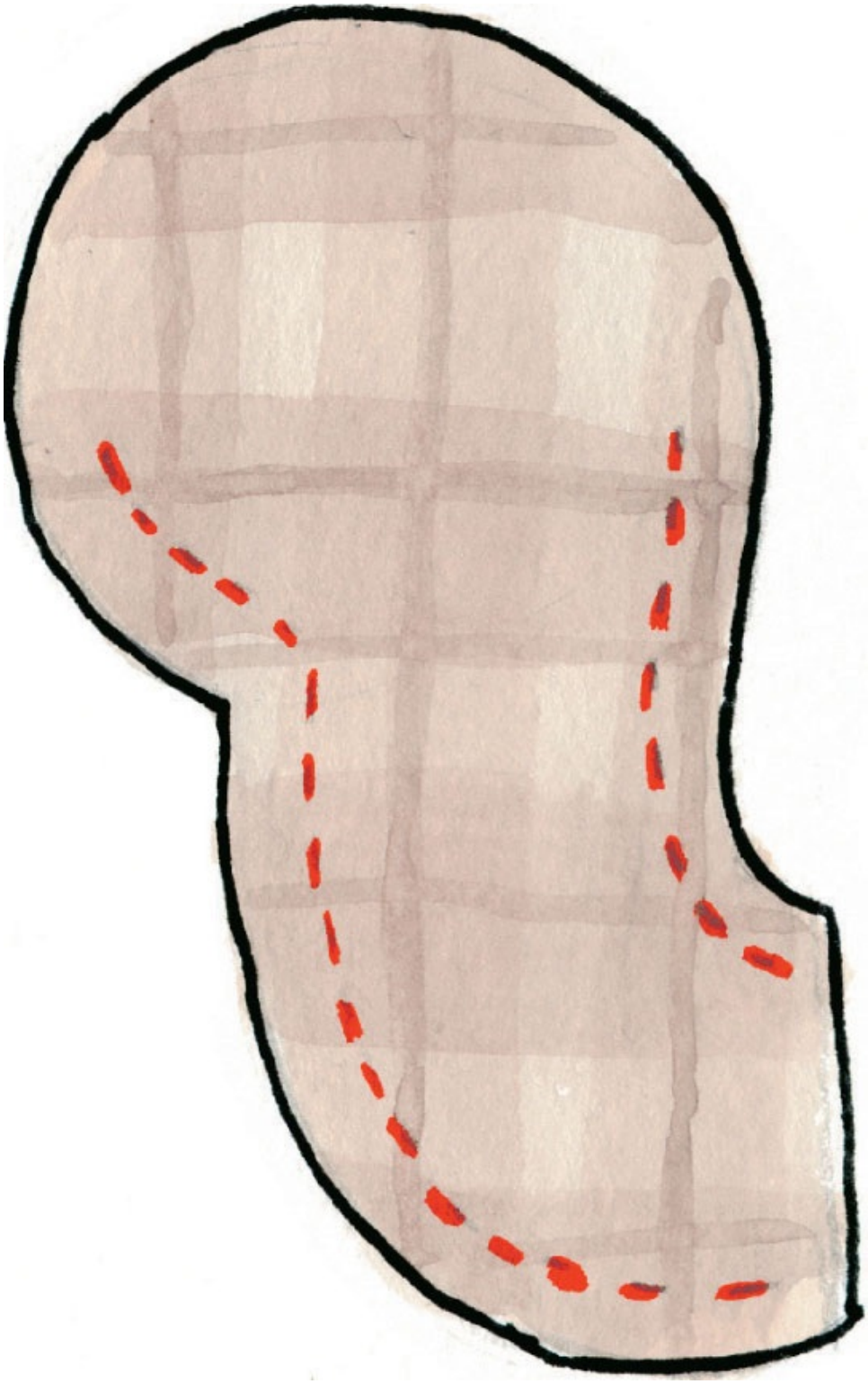


(E) *Stitch head panel to sides.*

6. Turn right side out, stuff squirrel, and hand stitch the opening closed (F).

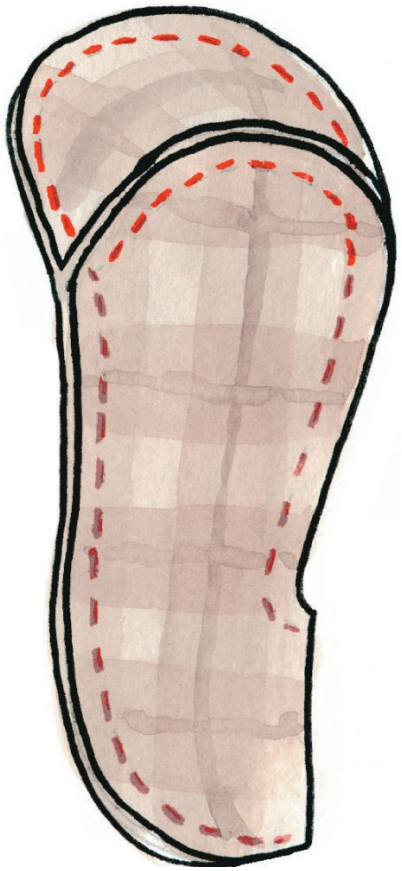
(F) *Turn right side out; close opening.*

7. Stitch the two tail side pieces together, and leave the areas between the two notches and the straight edge open (G).



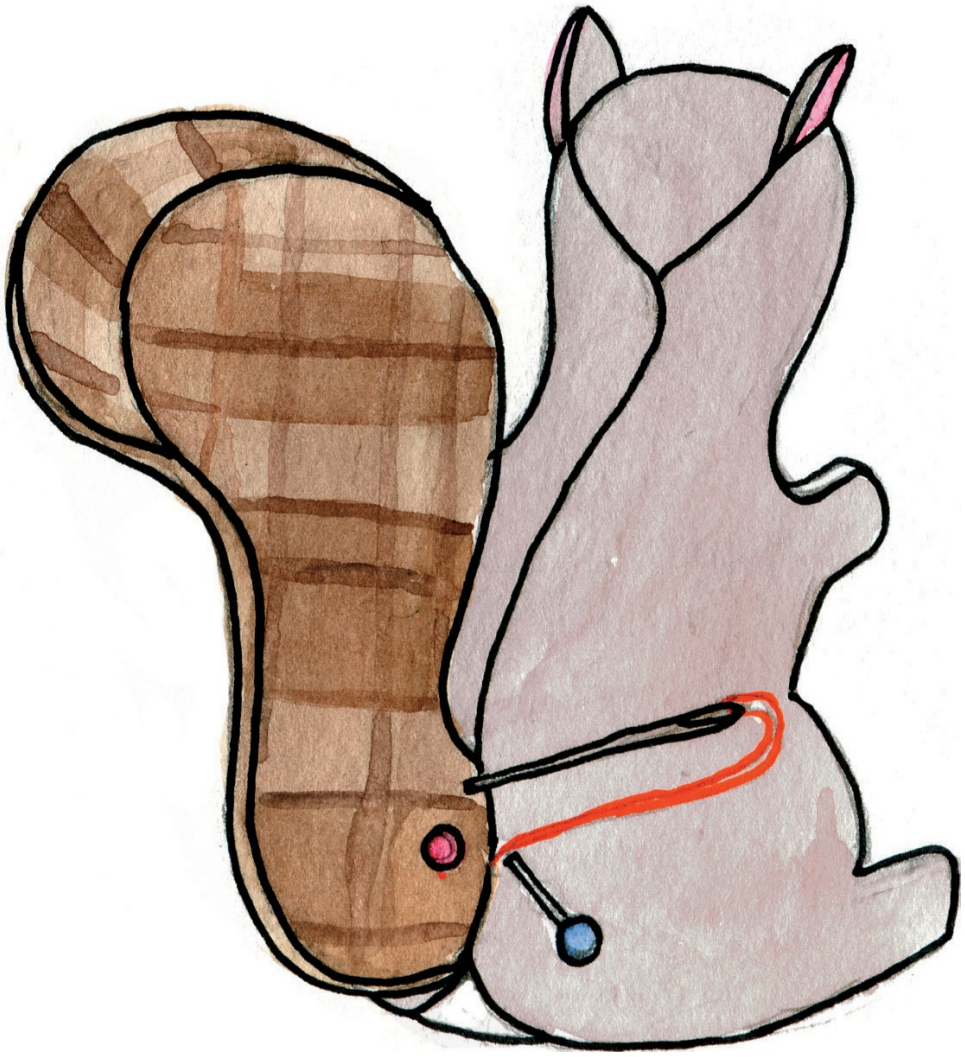
(G) *Stitch sides of tail together.*

8. Starting at one notch, curve the tail panel along one tail side piece, and stitch from notch to notch. Repeat with the other side (H).



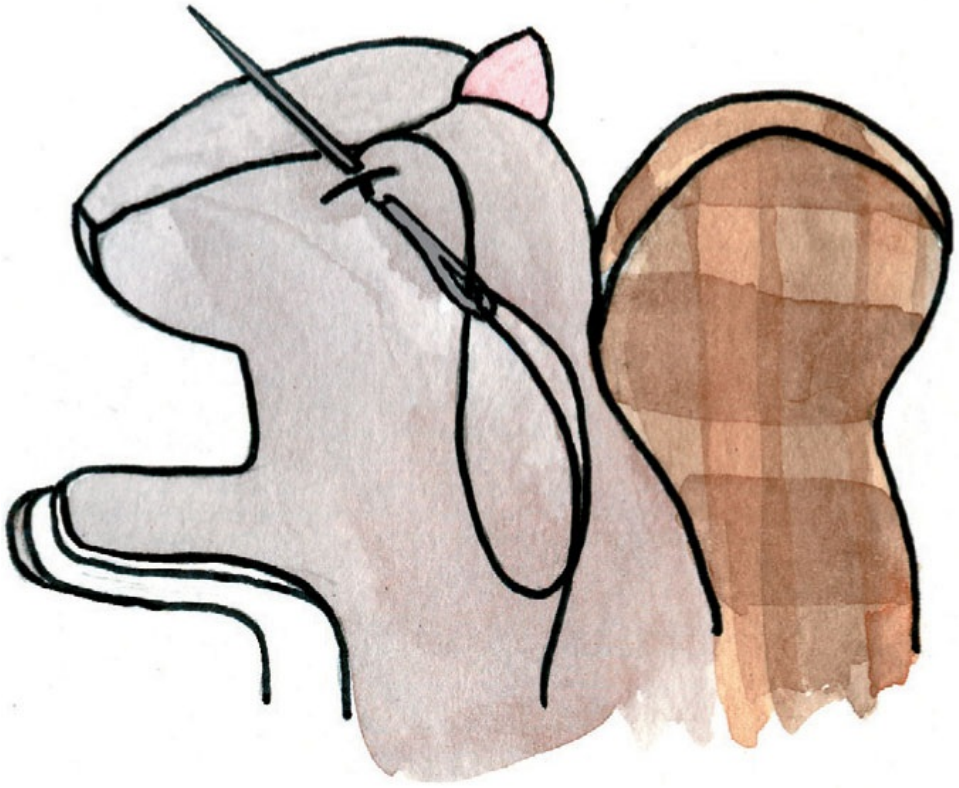
(H) *Stitch tail panel to tail sides.*

9. Turn the tail right side out and stuff. Pin the tail to the squirrel just above the intersection of the underside and side pieces; securely hand stitch the tail to the body (l).



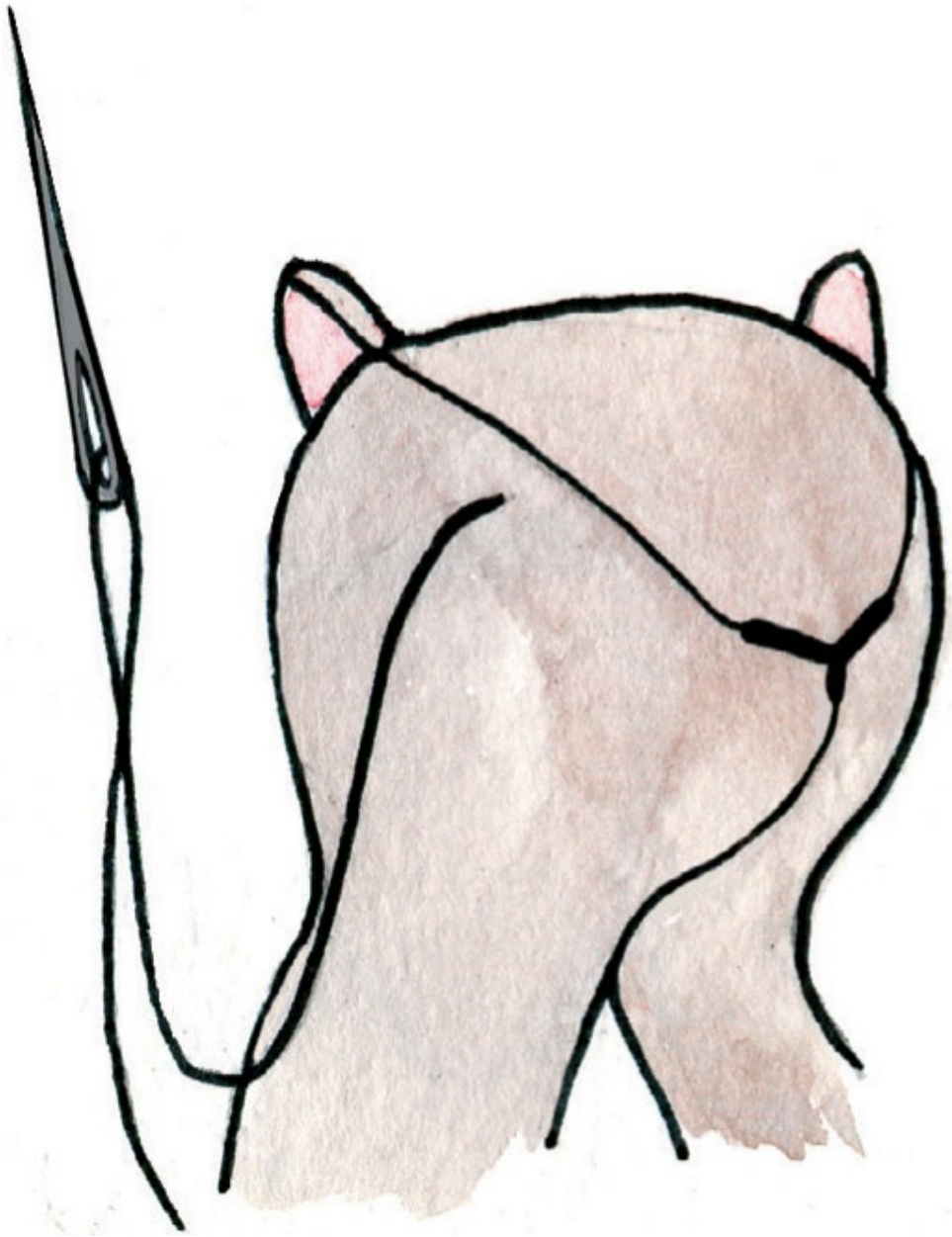
(l) *Attach tail.*

10. Embroider the eye. Thread a needle with three strands of black embroidery floss, and tie a knot at one end. Anchor your thread about halfway between the ear and the nose on one side of the face. Make small stitches in the shape of an asterisk, with the knot as the center. Make the horizontal stitches slightly longer to create an almond-shaped eye (J).



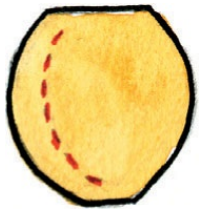
(J) *Begin embroidering eye.*

11. Push the needle through the center of the nose, at the intersection of the sides and head panel. Make three small stitches along each seam to create a Y shape. On the last stitch, push the needle out exactly opposite the eye on the other side of the face (K). Embroider the other eye, tie off, and snip the thread close to the knot.



(K) *Embroider nose; begin other eye.*

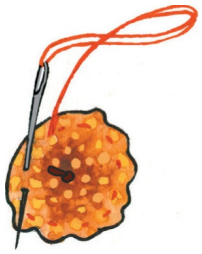
12. Sew two acorn bottom pieces together along one side (L). Align the third acorn bottom with the sides of the other two pieces and stitch, leaving the top open (M); turn right side out and stuff.



(L) *Stitch one side of acorn together.*

(M) *Add third acorn piece; stitch along sides.*

13. For the stem, thread a needle with a short length of brown yarn and knot one end. Pull the needle through the center of the acorn top so the knot is on the wrong side. Snip the yarn about 1/2" (1.3 cm) from the fabric surface. With all-purpose thread, make long basting stitches around the edge of the acorn top (N). Pull the thread tight so the fabric gathers.

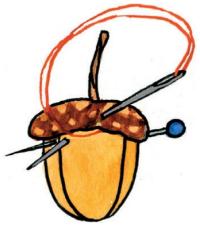


(N) *Baste and gather acorn top.*

14. Fold under and tack the edges together. The stitches can be messy because the inside of the acorn top will be hidden (O).

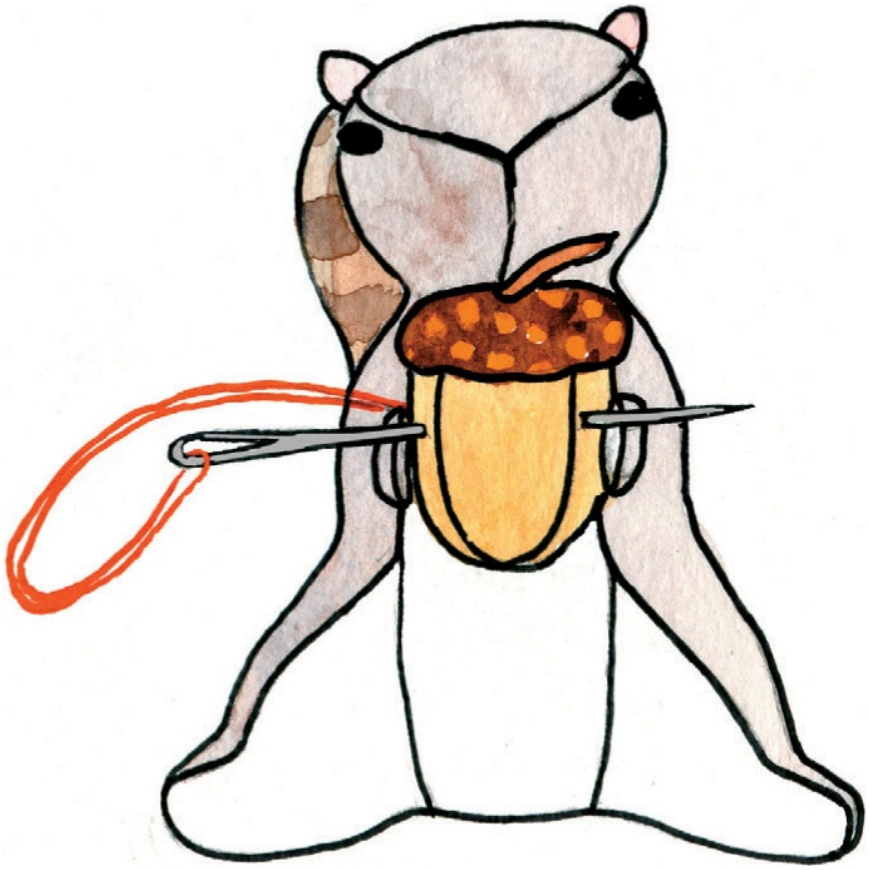
(O) *Fold edge under and stitch.*

15. Pin the acorn top to the acorn bottom and hand stitch in place (P).

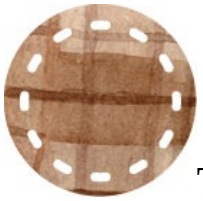


(P) *Attach acorn top to bottom.*

16. Anchor all-purpose thread on the inside of one squirrel paw. Push the needle through the acorn and make a couple of small stitches on the inside of the other paw to secure the acorn in place; tie off the thread (Q).



(Q) *Sew acorn to squirrel paws.*



To make a bouquet instead of an acorn, cut out the acorn top pattern from green medium-weight cotton fabric. Baste as in figure (N), and place a small piece of fiberfill in the center before gathering closed. This serves as the base of the bouquet.

Make fabric confetti using any type of fabric in a range of colors. Cut several fabric layers at once into 1/4" (6 mm) squares, and then round off the corners with small scissors. Attach the fabric confetti to the base, anchoring the center of each circle with one stitch as if sewing on a button. Fold a piece of green yarn in half and sew to the bottom of the base. Attach the bouquet to the squirrel paws in the same manner as the acorn.

project 5

deer cake topper

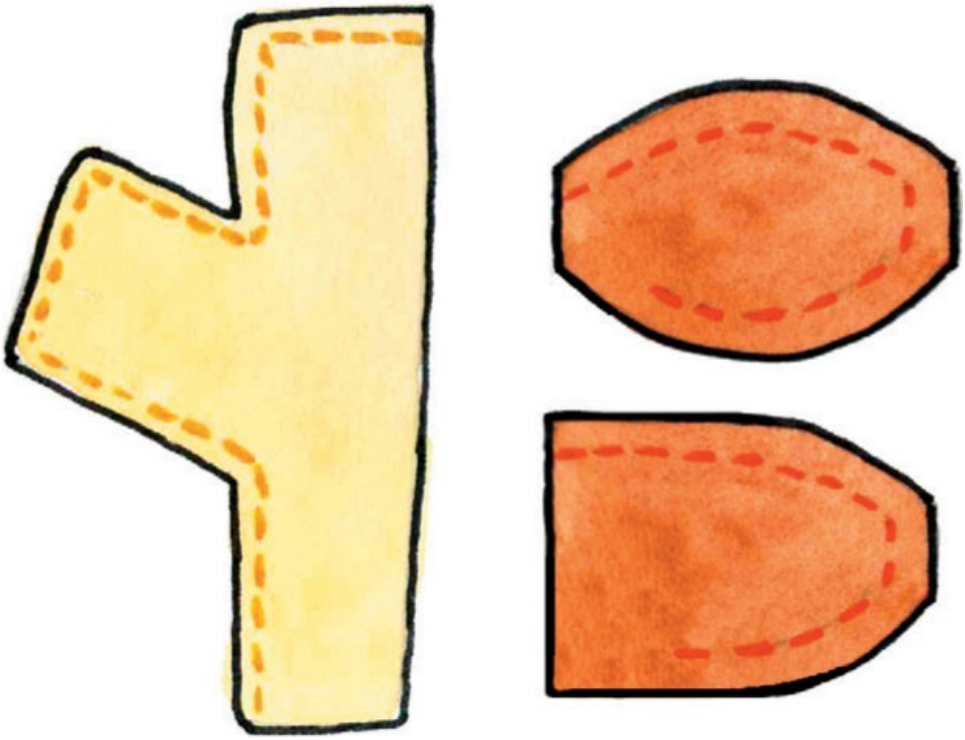
Make this sweet couple to adorn a wedding cake or as an anniversary gift. Place under a glass cloche for a year-round decoration.

Size of cake topper shown: 4-1/4" (10.8 cm) tall
Use patterns on page 122 at 200%.

MATERIALS

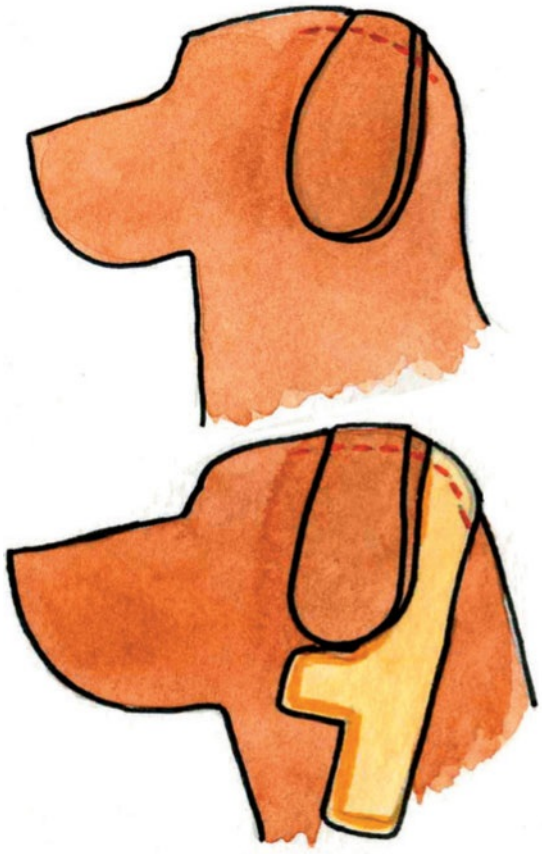
- medium-weight cotton fabric
- wool fabric for ears and tail
- felt for antlers
- black all-purpose sewing thread for eyes
- fiberfill
- 3" (7.6 cm) length of crochet or lace trim
- 3-1/2" (8.9 cm)-diameter or larger wood slice for base
- hot glue

1. Fold one felt antler piece in half. Stitch along the edges, leaving the bottom edge unsewn. Repeat with the other antler. Stitch two of the ear pieces together; leave the wider straight edge and 1/4" (6 mm) of one side unsewn for turning right side out. Repeat with other three ears. Stitch two tail pieces together, in the same manner as the ear. Repeat with the remaining tail pieces (A).



(A) *Sew antler, ear, and tail pieces.*

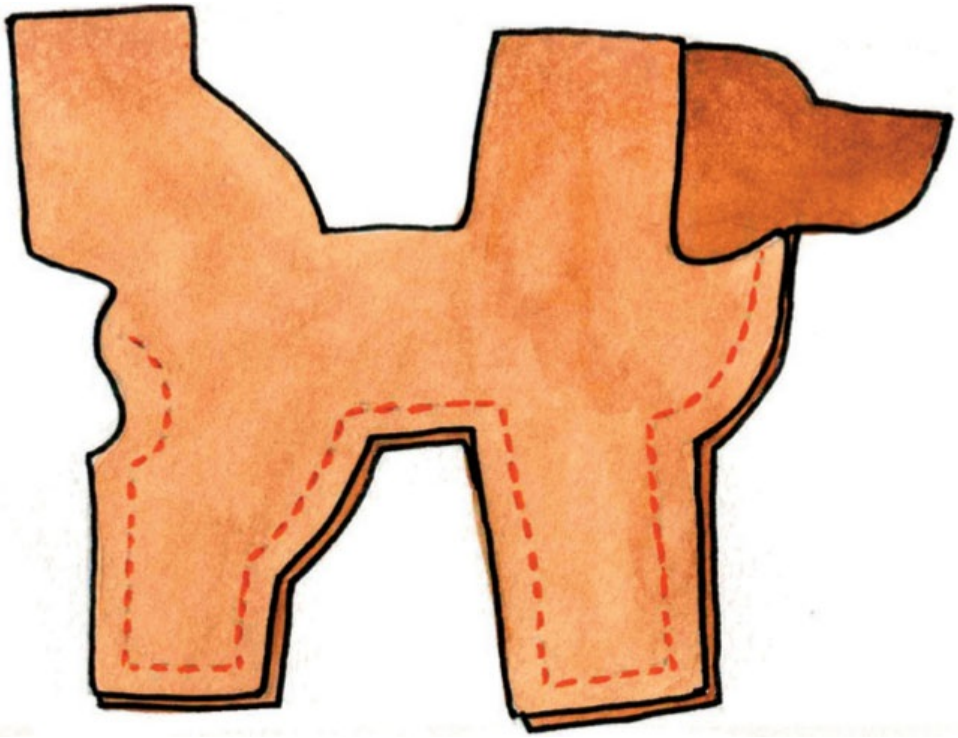
2. Turn all four ears right side out. Center an ear at the notch indicated on the groom side. Place antler just behind it and stitch both in place. Repeat on the other side. Center an ear and an antler at the notches marked on the groom side; stitch in place. Repeat on the other side (B).



(B) *Attach ears and antlers to bride and groom sides.*

From this point on, the instructions are for both deer.

3. Align and pin the underside to one side piece. Stitch from the circle mark at the chest to the diamond mark at the rear (C). Repeat with the other side piece.

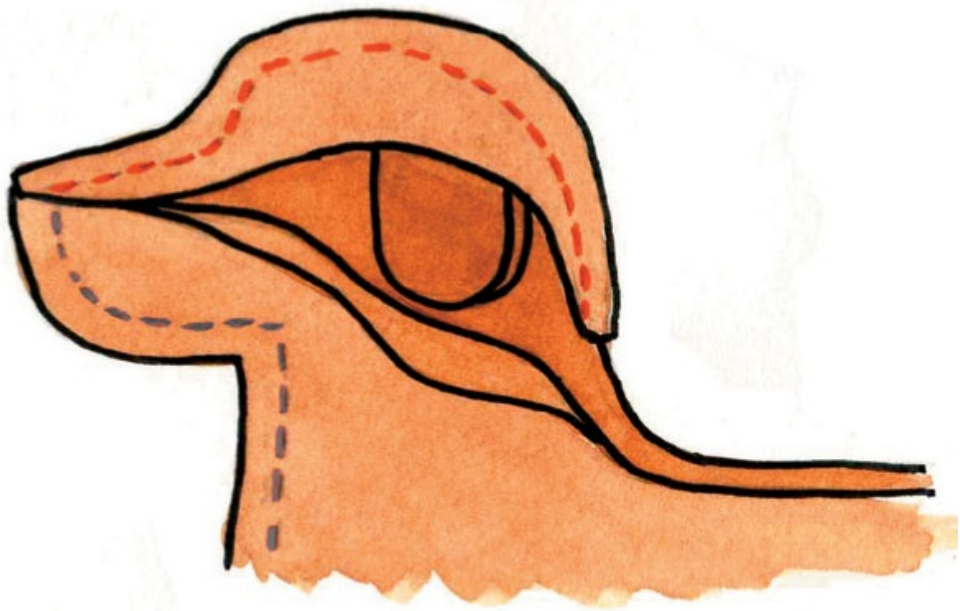


(C) *Stitch underside to one body side.*

4. Stitch the sides together from the diamond mark along the curve of the back, stopping 3/4" (1.9 cm) shy of the neck. Stitch the sides together from the circle mark along the curve of the muzzle, stopping at the nose (D).

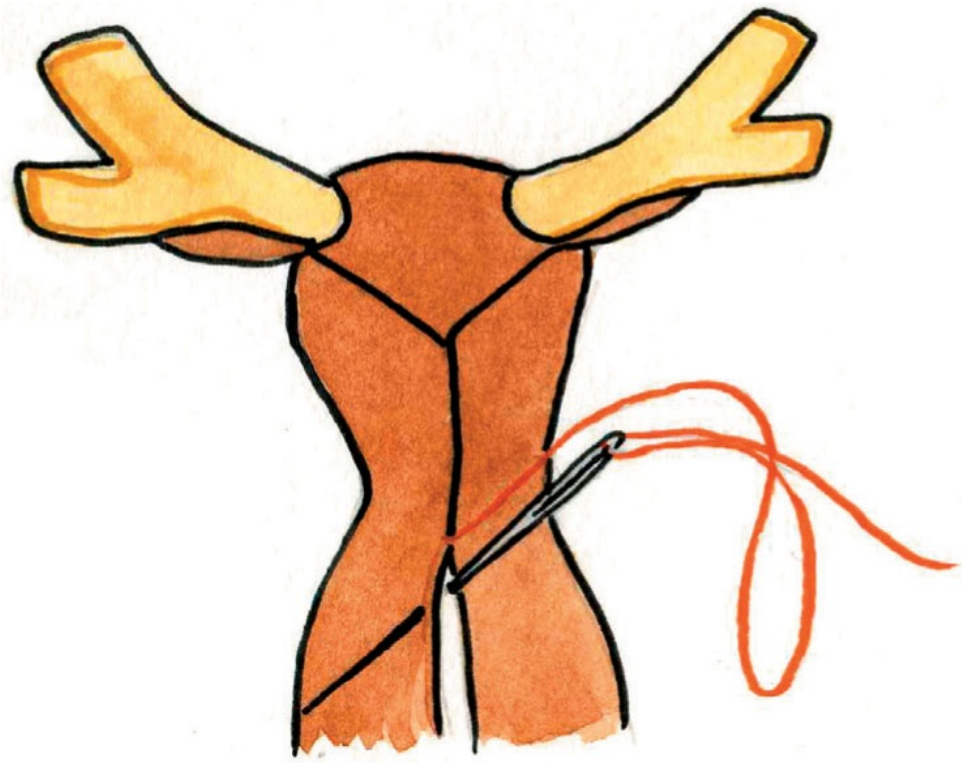
(D) *Stitch sides together along back and chin.*

5. Align the narrower end of the head panel with the head portion of one side, starting at the nose. Stitch from the nose to the back of the head (E). Repeat with the other side.



(E) *Stitch head panel to side.*

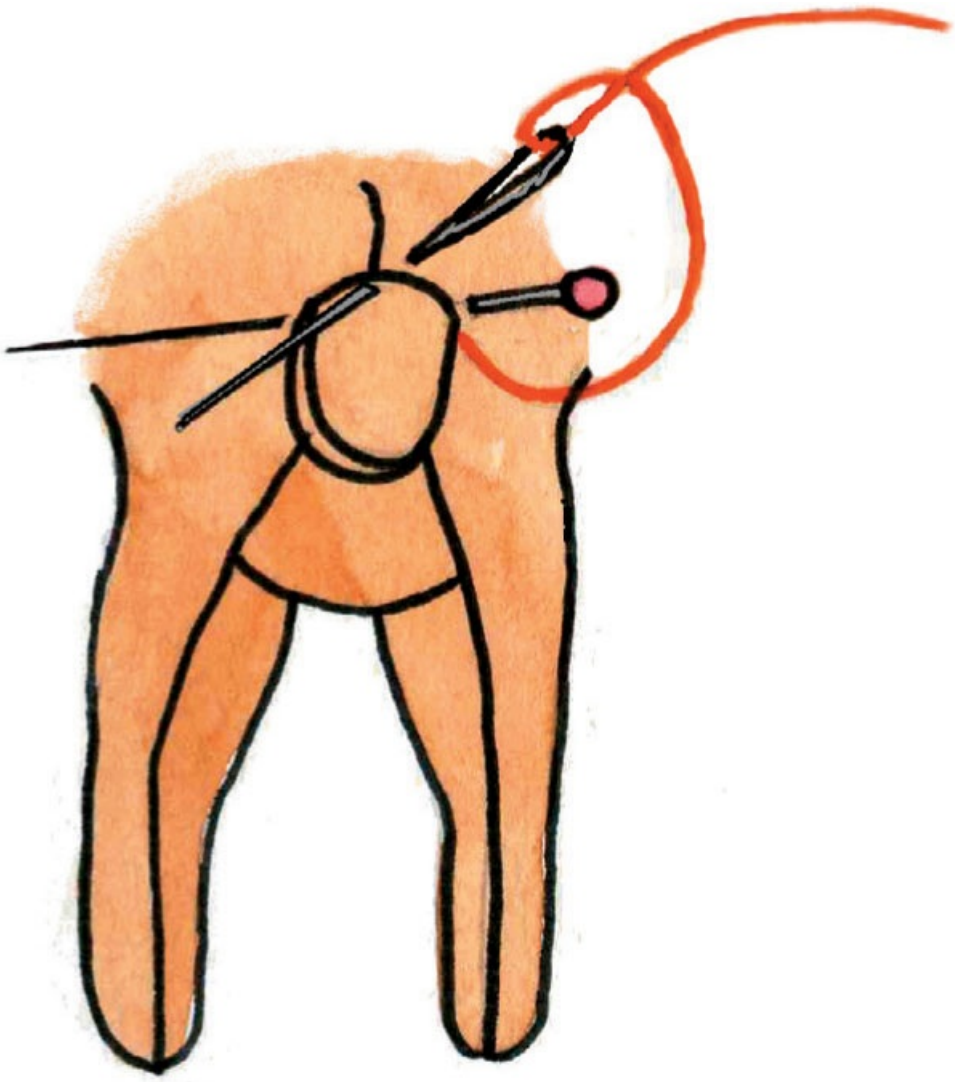
6. Turn right side out and stuff. Hand stitch the opening closed (F).



(F) *Turn right side out, stuff, and close opening.*

Trimming the seam allowance on the deer's slender legs will help you turn them right side out. I also use a size E/4 (3.5 mm) crochet hook to help push the legs out.

7. Turn the tail right side out, stuff, and pin where the sides and underside meet. Hand stitch the tail to the body (G).

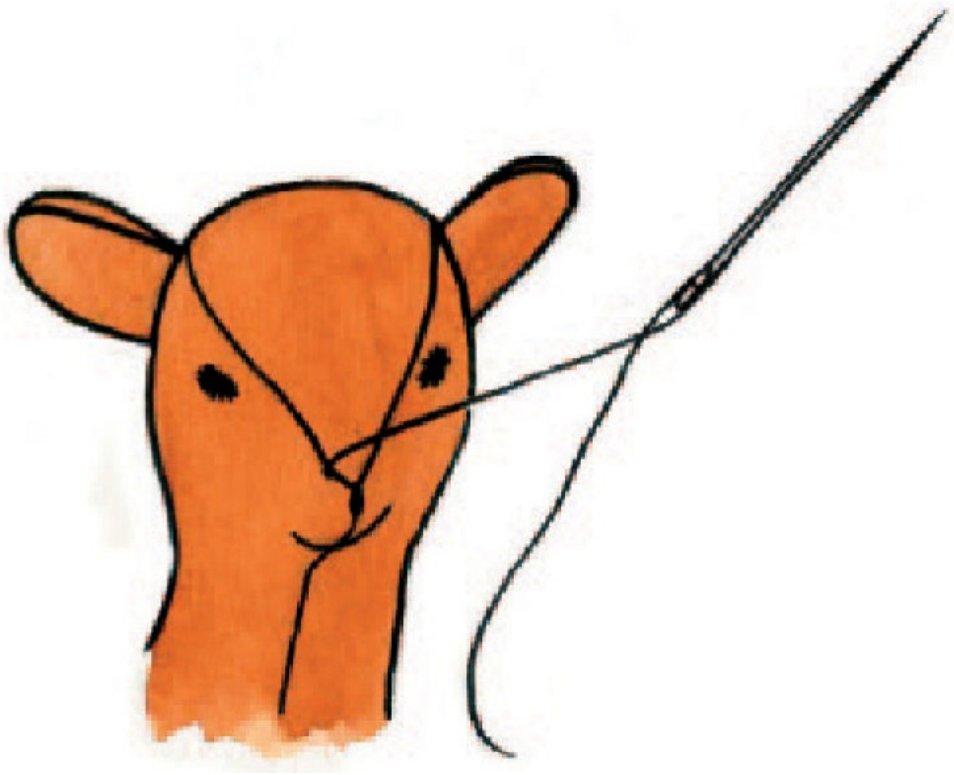


(G) *Attach tail.*

8. Thread a needle with black all-purpose thread and tie the ends together in a knot. Anchor your thread about 1/4" (6 mm) from the ear on one side of the face. Make small stitches in the shape of an asterisk, with the knot as the center. Make the horizontal stitches slightly longer to create an almond-shaped eye (H). Push the needle across to the opposite side to embroider the other eye.

(H) *Begin embroidering eyes.*

9. Push the needle out where the head panel and both sides intersect to begin embroidering the nose. Make a small stitch below the intersection along the seam. Then push the needle back up past the intersection, and make small stitches across the head panel to form of an upside-down triangle (I). Tie off the thread and clip close to the knot.



(I) *Embroider nose.*

10. Pin trim along the bride's back, starting between the ears and ending at the tail. Anchor all-purpose thread under the trim, and whipstitch the trim in place. Position the deer couple on top of the wooden base and make a small pencil mark under each leg. Place a dab of hot glue on the base at each pencil mark, and immediately press the legs into the glue. I like to glue just two legs at a time to make sure the glue doesn't harden before I can press the other legs in place.

project 6

spring deer

This deer's creamy white body and colorful garland remind me of springtime. Make a wintry version by using red and green or monochromatic blue fabrics for the garland.

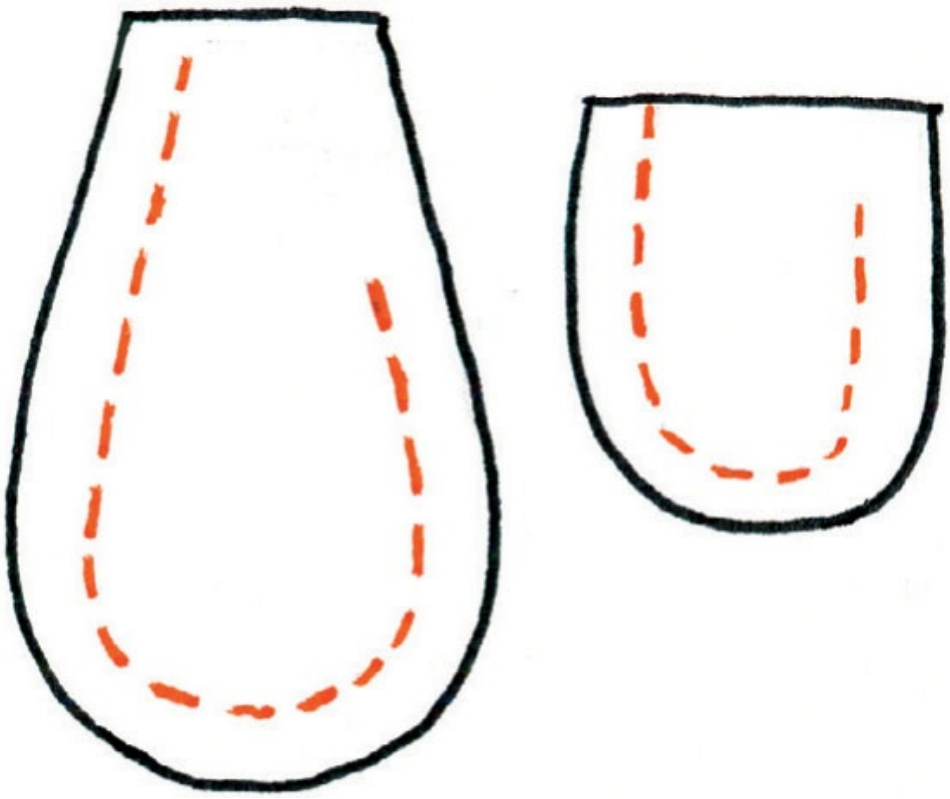
Size of deer shown: 4-3/4" (12.1 cm) tall
Use patterns on page 122 at 200%.

MATERIALS

- medium-weight cotton
- fabric confetti
- all-purpose thread
- black embroidery floss
- fiberfill

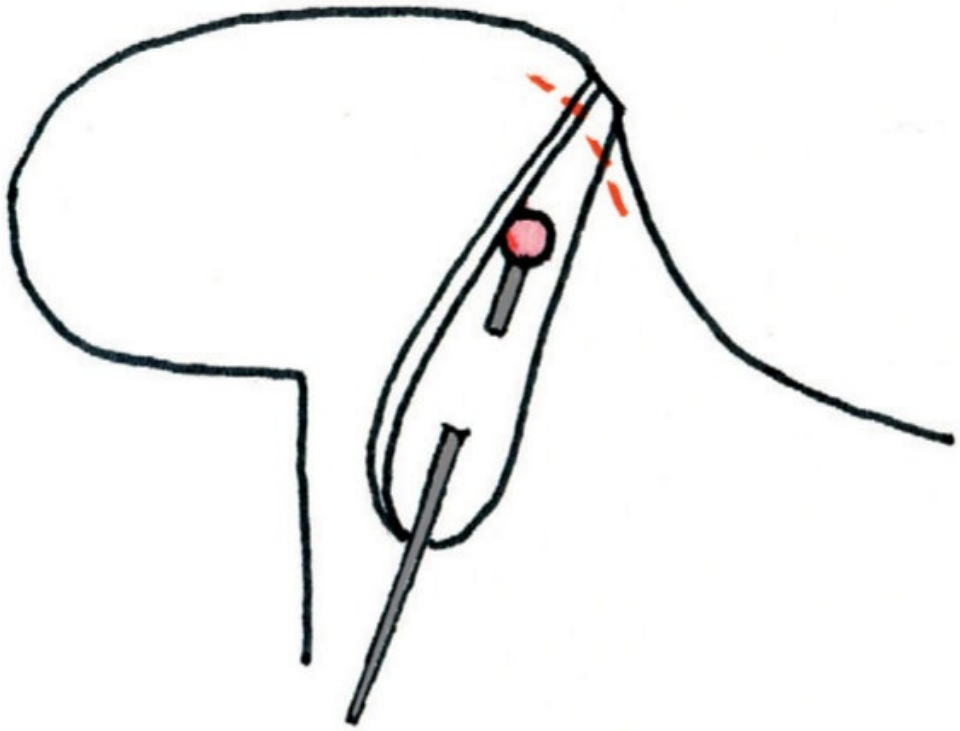
1. Make fabric confetti using any type of fabric in a range of colors. Cut several fabric layers at once into 1/4" (6 mm) squares, and then round off the corners with small scissors. You may be tempted to use a paper hole punch, but it will not work!

2. Stitch two of the ear pieces together. Leave the straight edge and 1/4" (6 mm) of one side unsewn for turning right side out. Repeat with the other ear and the tail (A).



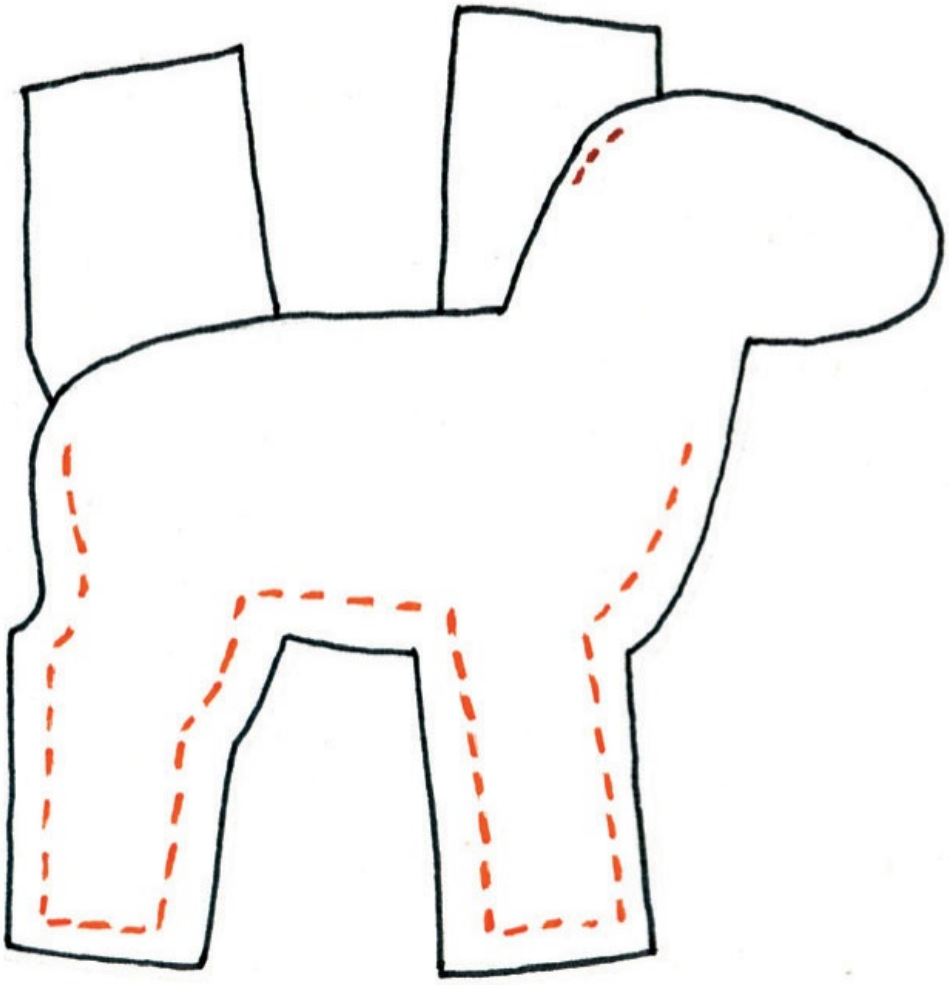
(A) *Sew ear and tail pieces.*

3. Turn the ears right side out. Fold an ear in half lengthwise, and pin on the fabric right side at the notch of the side piece with the fold toward the back; stitch in place (B). Repeat to attach the remaining ear to the other side piece.



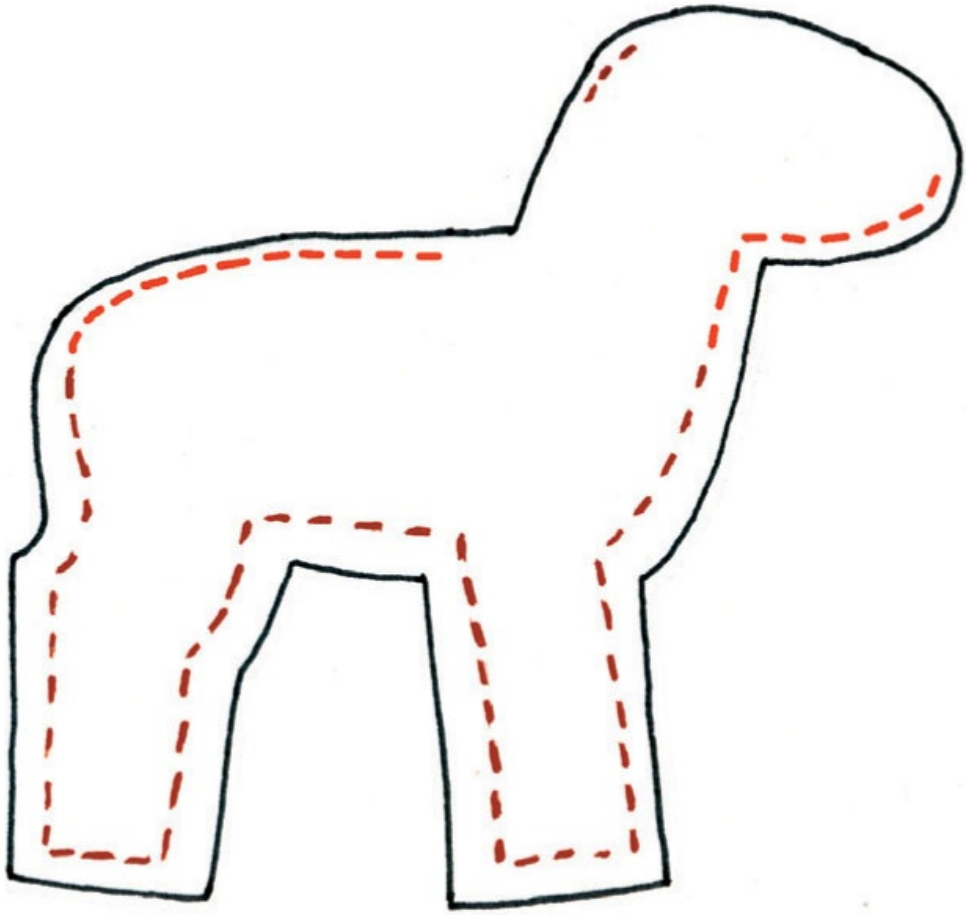
(B) *Fold ear and attach to side.*

4. Align and pin the underside to one side piece. Stitch from the circle mark at the chest to the rear diamond mark (C). Repeat to attach the other side of the deer.



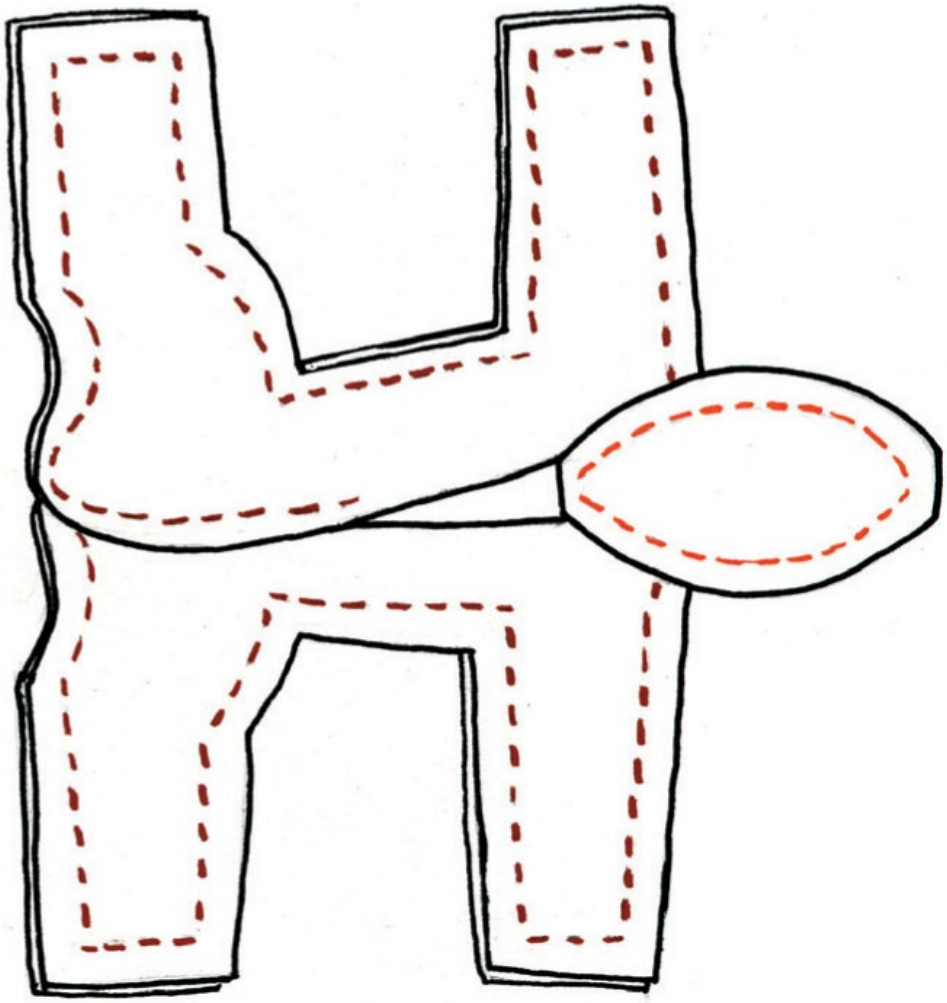
(C) *Stitch underside to one body side.*

5. Sew the sides together beginning at the rear diamond mark moving part way along the curve of the back, and stopping about 3/4" (1.9 cm) shy of the neck. Then stitch from the circle mark at the chest, along the chin, to the notch marked on the pattern at the nose (D).



(D) *Sew sides together along back and chin.*

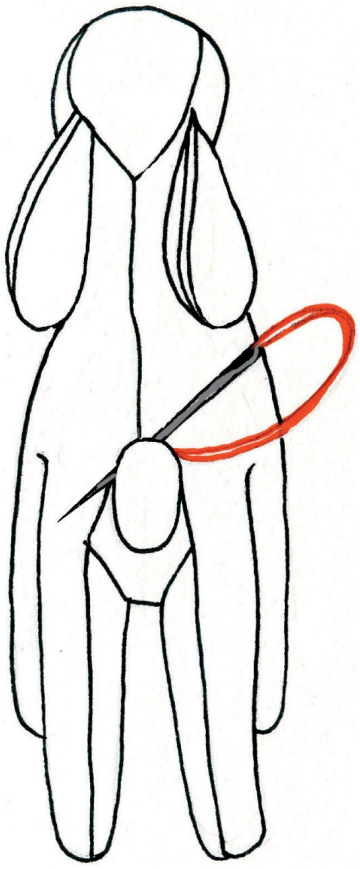
6. Starting at the notch of the nose, align one side of the head panel with the head portion of the deer's side; stitch in place and repeat on the other side (E).



(E) *Stitch sides together along back and attach head panel.*

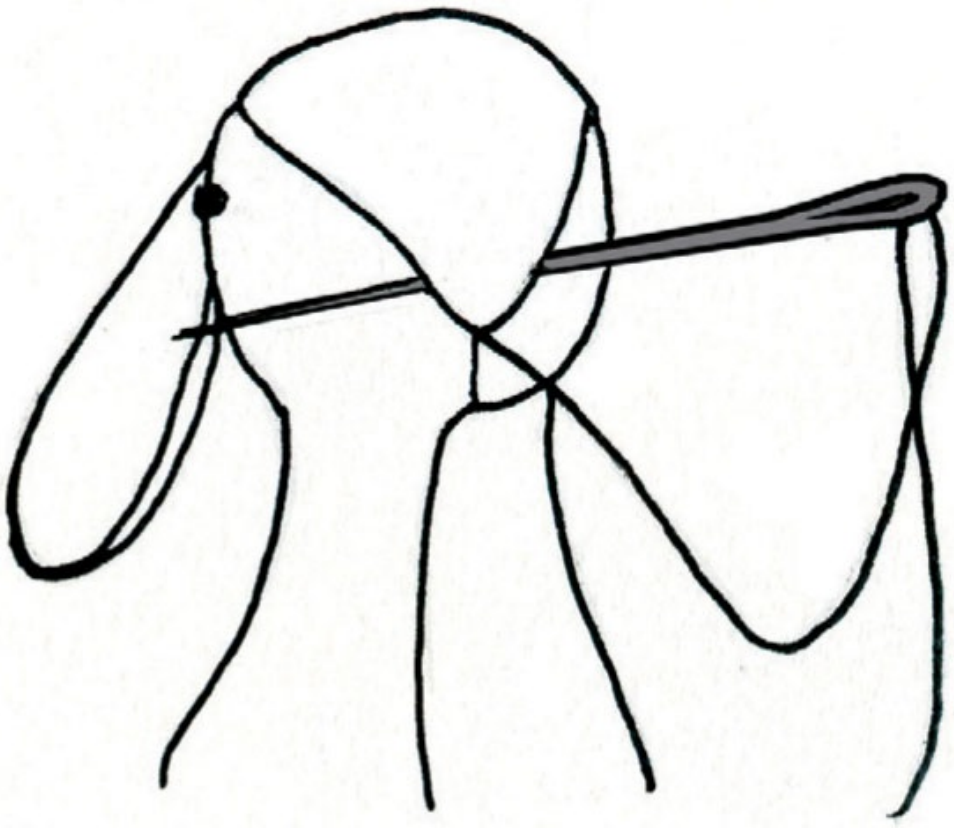
7. Turn the deer right side out, stuff, and hand stitch the opening closed.

8. Turn the tail right side out and lightly stuff. Fold in the raw edges in and stitch to the rear body where the sides and underside meet (F).



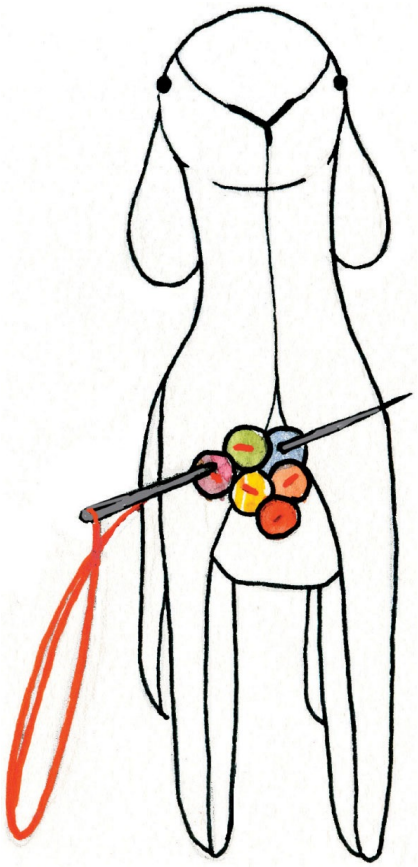
(F) *Attach tail.*

9. Thread a needle with three strands of black embroidery floss and knot one end. Anchor your thread where you would like an eye to be. Make several small stitches in the form of an asterisk, with your anchor knot as the center. Reenter the fabric by the knot, and then push the needle out where the head panel and sides intersect and make three small stitches along the seams in a Y shape to form the nose (G). Push your needle out to the opposite side of the face, and make small stitches in the form of an asterisk for the other eye. Tie off with a knot in the center of the asterisk, and clip the thread close to the knot.



(G) *Embroider nose and eyes.*

10. Anchor a long strand of all-purpose thread in the center of the deer's chest. Stitch on the fabric confetti with one stitch in the center of each circle, as if sewing on a button (H).



(H) *Stitch on fabric confetti.*

project 7

grizzly bear

Use a multicolored floral fabric for the inside of his tiny ears to help make them pop!

Size of bear shown: 3-1/2" (8.9 cm) tall
Use patterns on page 123 at 200%.

MATERIALS

corduroy or brown felt for body

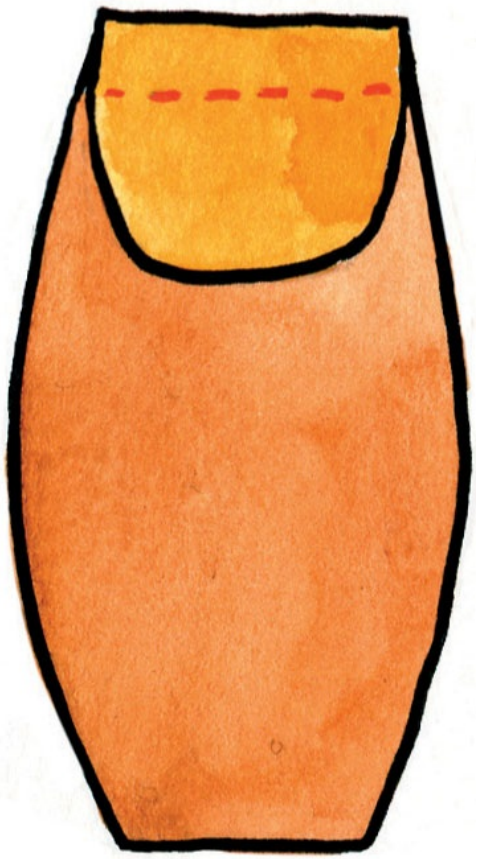
tan felt or medium-weight cotton for muzzle

medium-weight cotton for inside ear (optional)

black embroidery floss

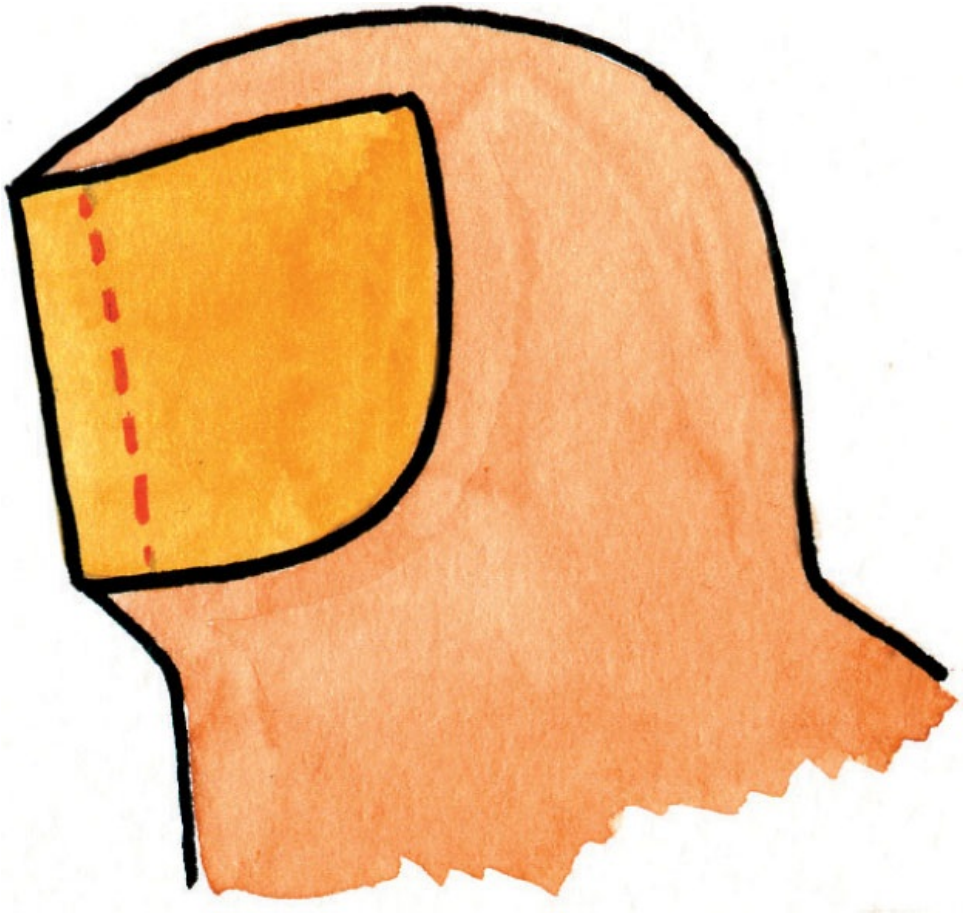
fiberfill

1. Align the longer straight edge of the muzzle piece with the longer straight edge of the head panel, and stitch together (A).



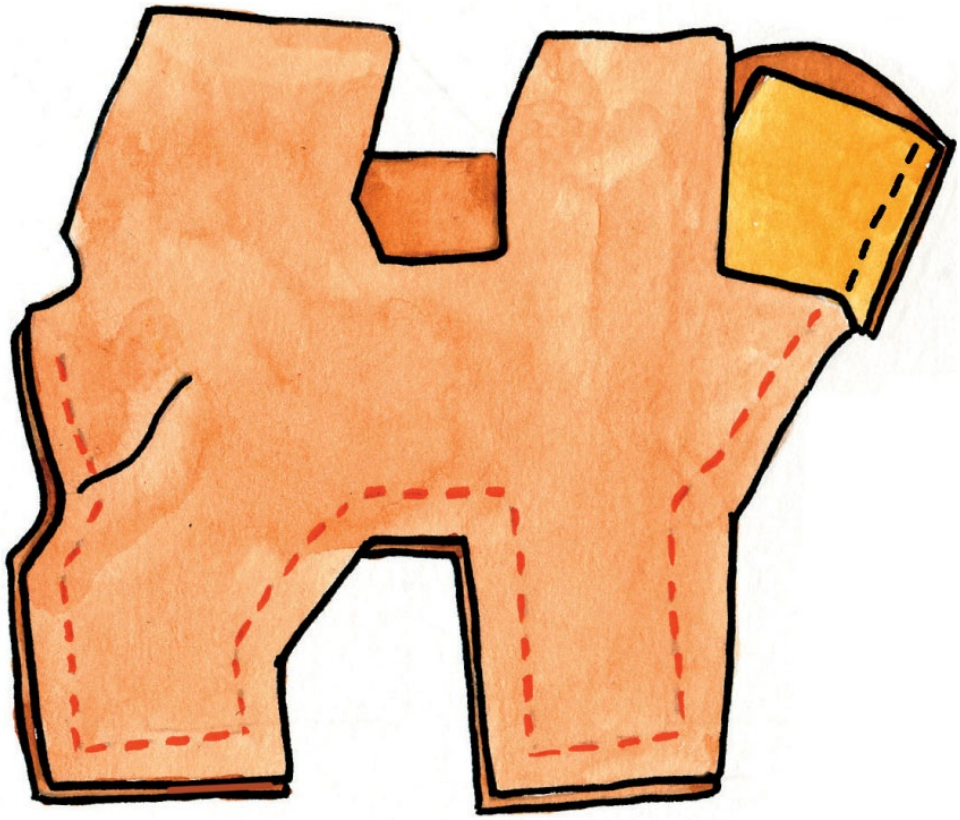
(A) *Sew muzzle and head panel together.*

2. Align the double-notched edge of the side muzzle piece with the double-notched edge of one side piece; stitch (B). Repeat to attach the other side muzzle to the remaining side piece.



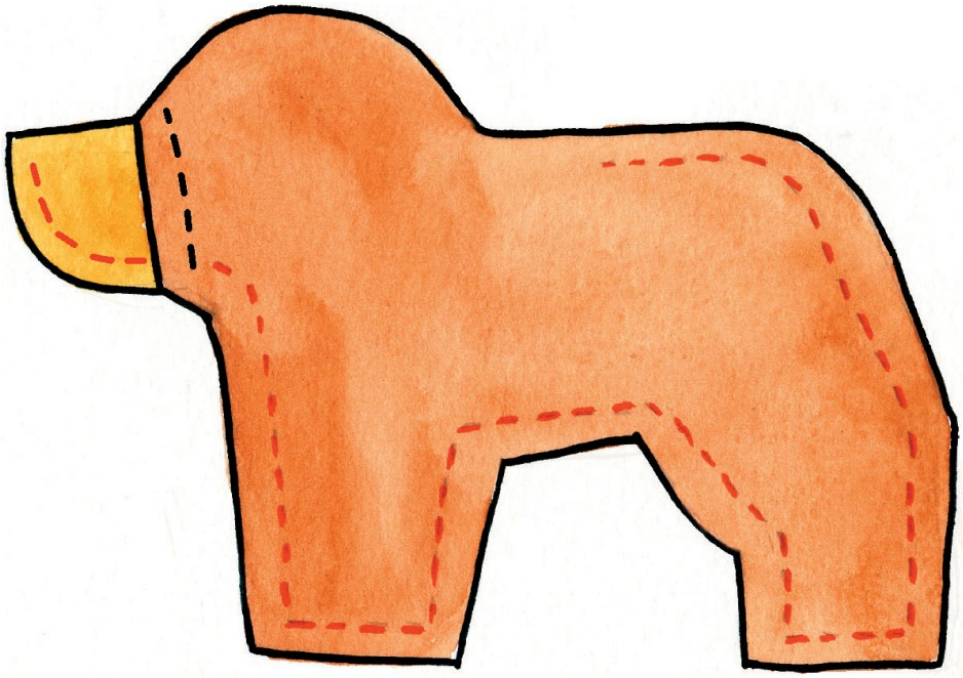
(B) *Stitch side muzzle to side piece.*

3. Align and pin the underside to one side piece. Stitch from the circle mark at the chest to the diamond mark at the rear (C).



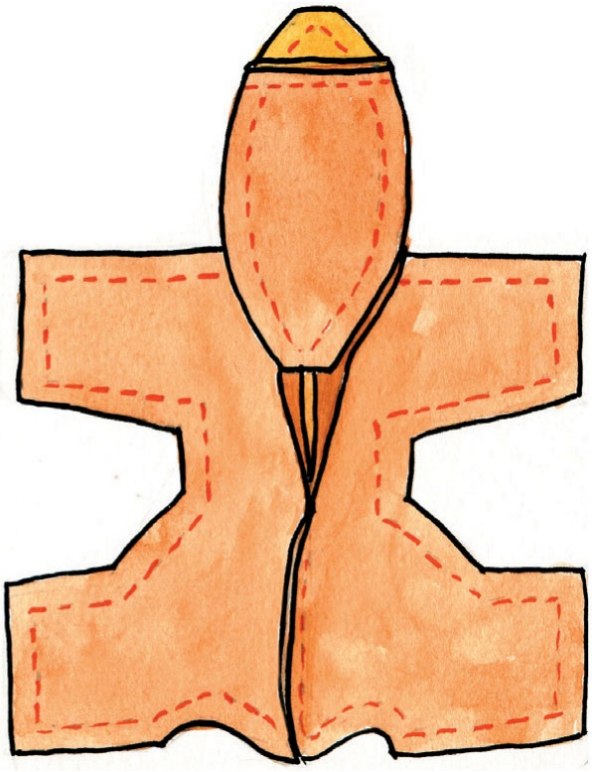
(C) *Stitch underside to one body side.*

4. Repeat to attach the other side of the bear. Sew the sides together along the back, starting where you left off sewing the underside and stopping about 1-1/4" (3 cm) shy of the neck. Stitch the curved portion of the side muzzles together (D).



(D) *Stitch sides together along back.*

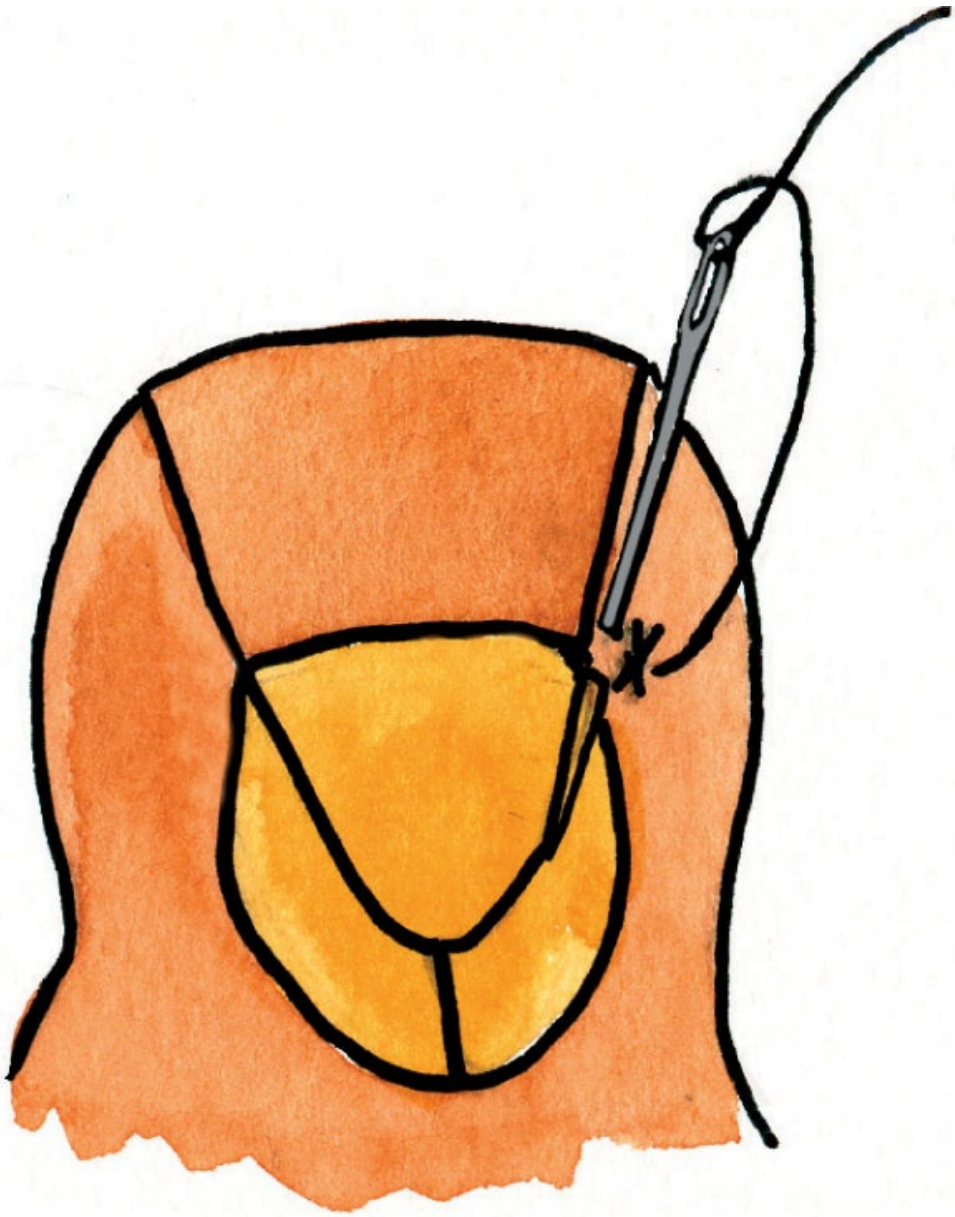
5. Line up the seam of the muzzle/head panel piece with the seam of the side muzzle/side pieces. Stitch from the tip of the muzzle to the back of the head on both sides (E).



(E) *Stitch head panel to sides.*

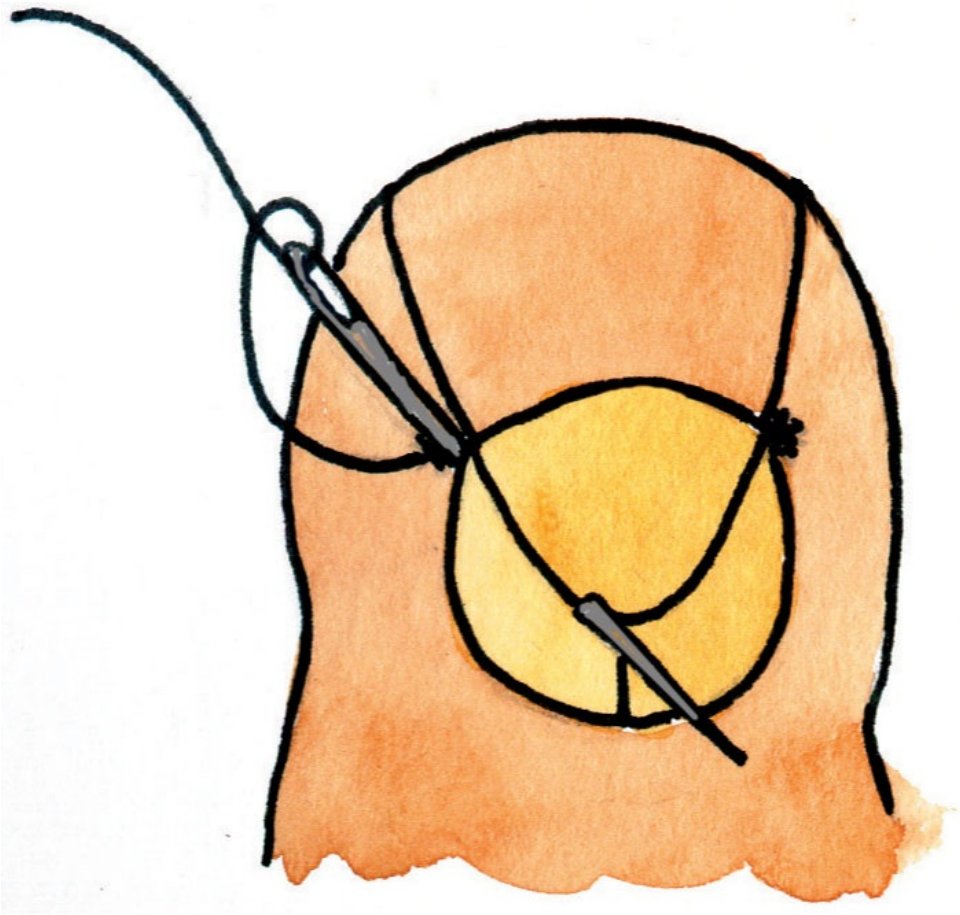
6. Turn the bear right side out and stuff; stitch the opening closed.

7. Thread a needle with six strands of black embroidery floss and knot one end. Anchor your thread where you would like an eye to be. Make several small stitches in the form of an asterisk with your anchor knot as the center (F). Push the needle across to the opposite side and repeat for other eye.

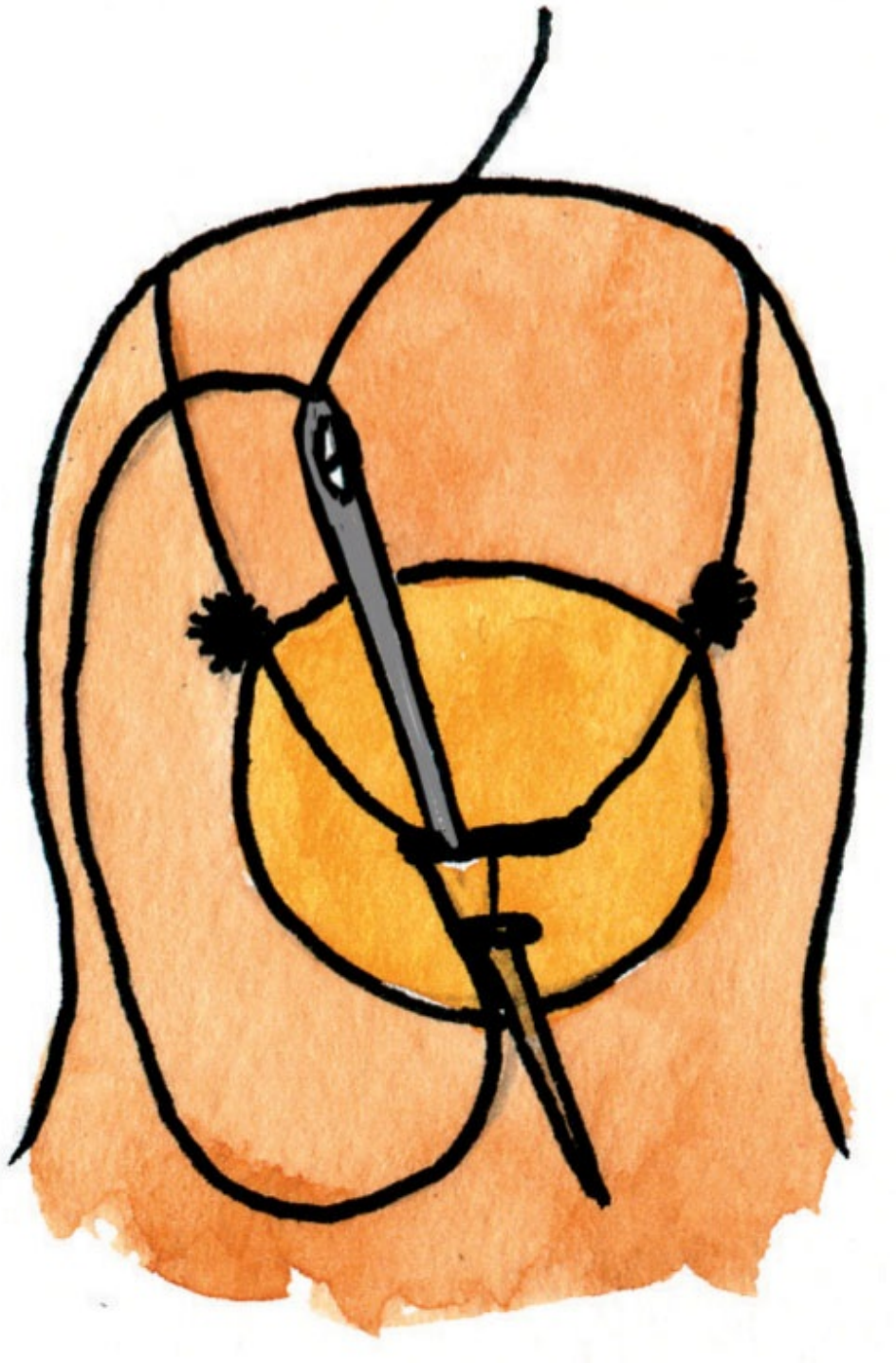


(F) *Embroider eyes.*

8. Push the needle out where the muzzle seams intersect. Make one long horizontal stitch to mark the top of the nose and one smaller horizontal stitch to mark the bottom (G). Make vertical stitches between the upper and lower stitches until the area is covered (H). Tie off the thread and clip close to the knot.

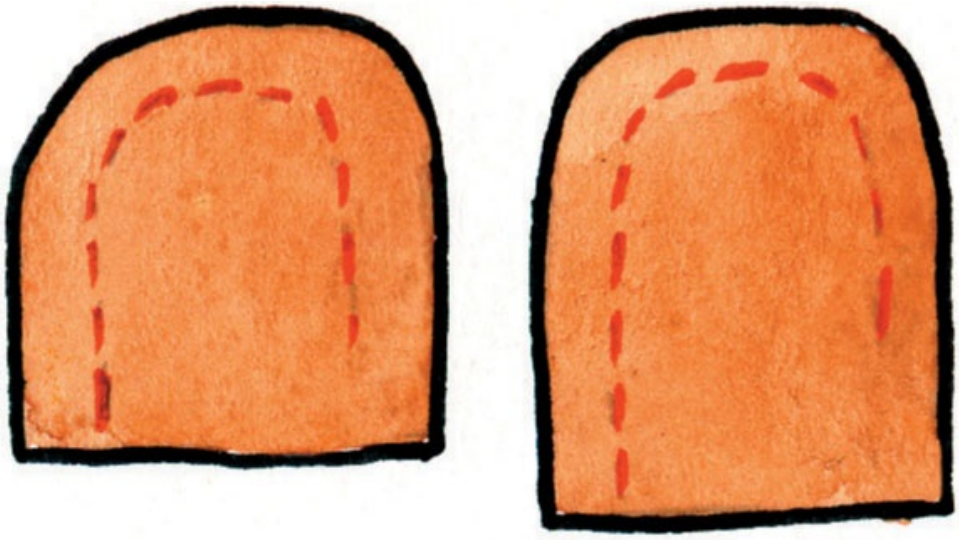


(G) *Begin embroidering nose.*



(H) *Fill in nose with vertical stitches.*

9. Stitch two of the ear pieces together, leaving the straight edge and 1/4" (6 mm) of one side unsewn for turning right side out. Repeat with the other ear and the tail (I).

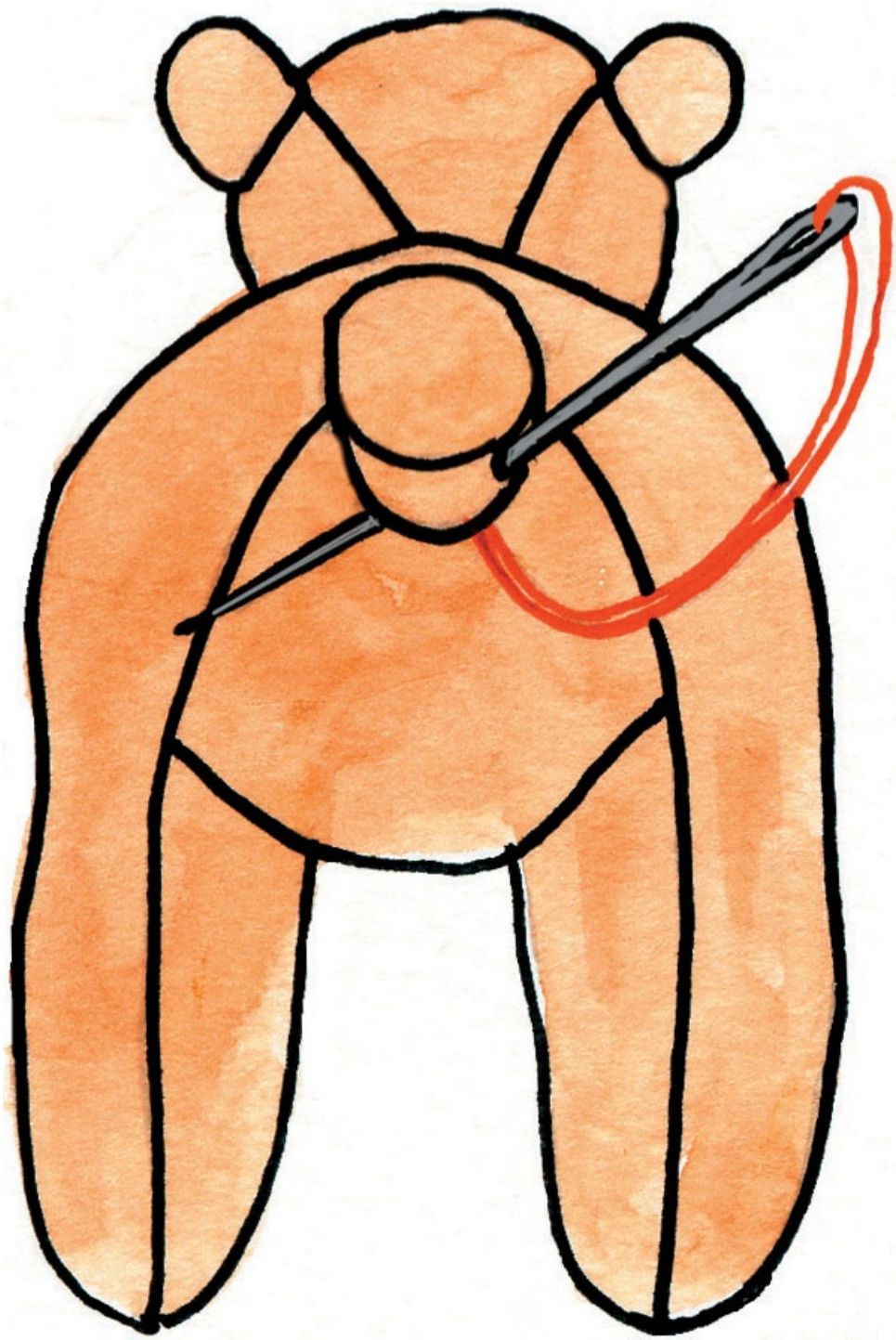


(I) *Sew ear and tail pieces together.*

10. Turn the ears right side out. Fold the raw edges under slightly and hand stitch to the side of the head about 5/8" (1.6 cm) from the eye (J).

(J) *Attach ear.*

11. Turn the tail right side out and lightly stuff. Pin the tail to the rear where the sides and underside meet. With the raw edges slightly folded in, hand stitch the tail in place (K).



(K) *Attach tail.*

project 8

bulldog

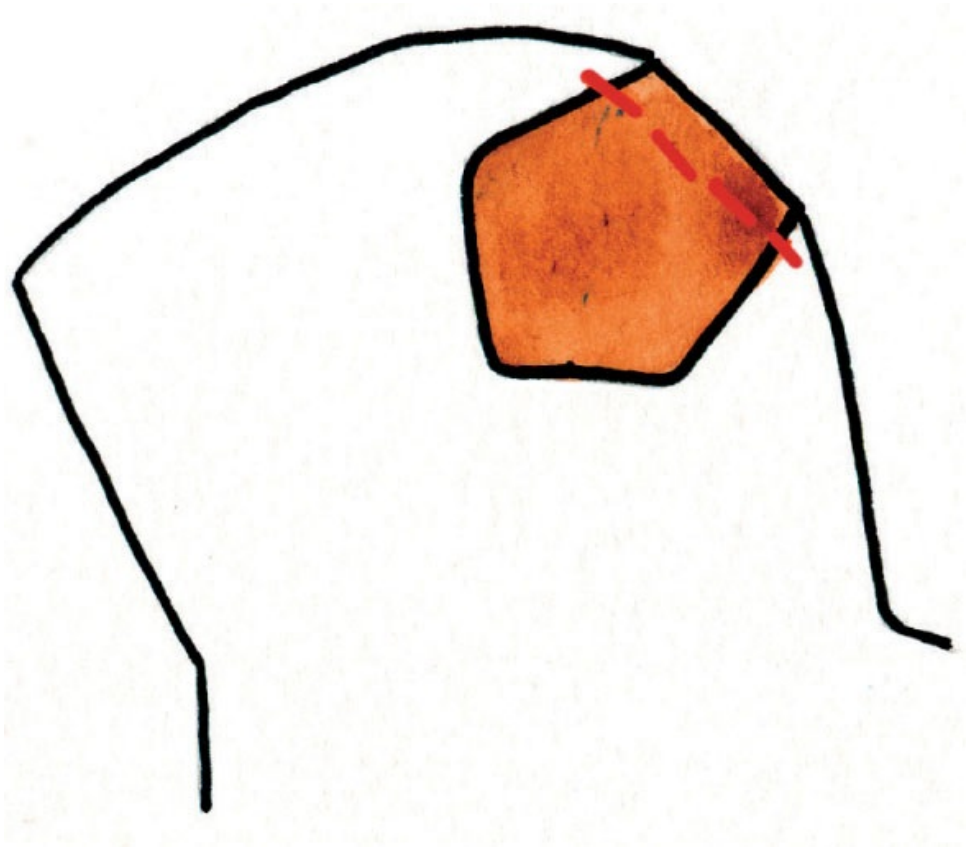
The details on this adorable pup are worth the extra effort.

Size of bulldog shown: 4-1/2" (11.4 cm) tall
Use patterns on page 123 at 200%.

MATERIALS

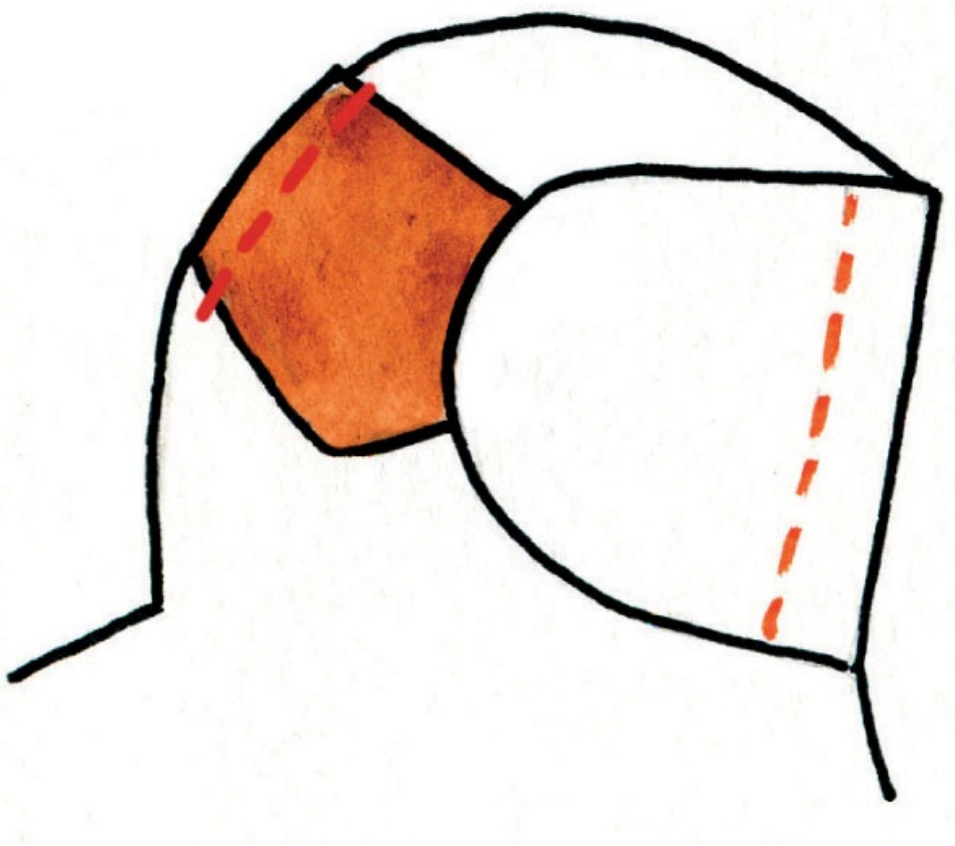
- medium-weight cotton
- brown felt for spots and ears
- black felt for nose
- all-purpose thread
- black all-purpose thread for eyes
- fiberfill

1. Center a felt ear at the notch of a side piece and stitch (A). Repeat with the other side.



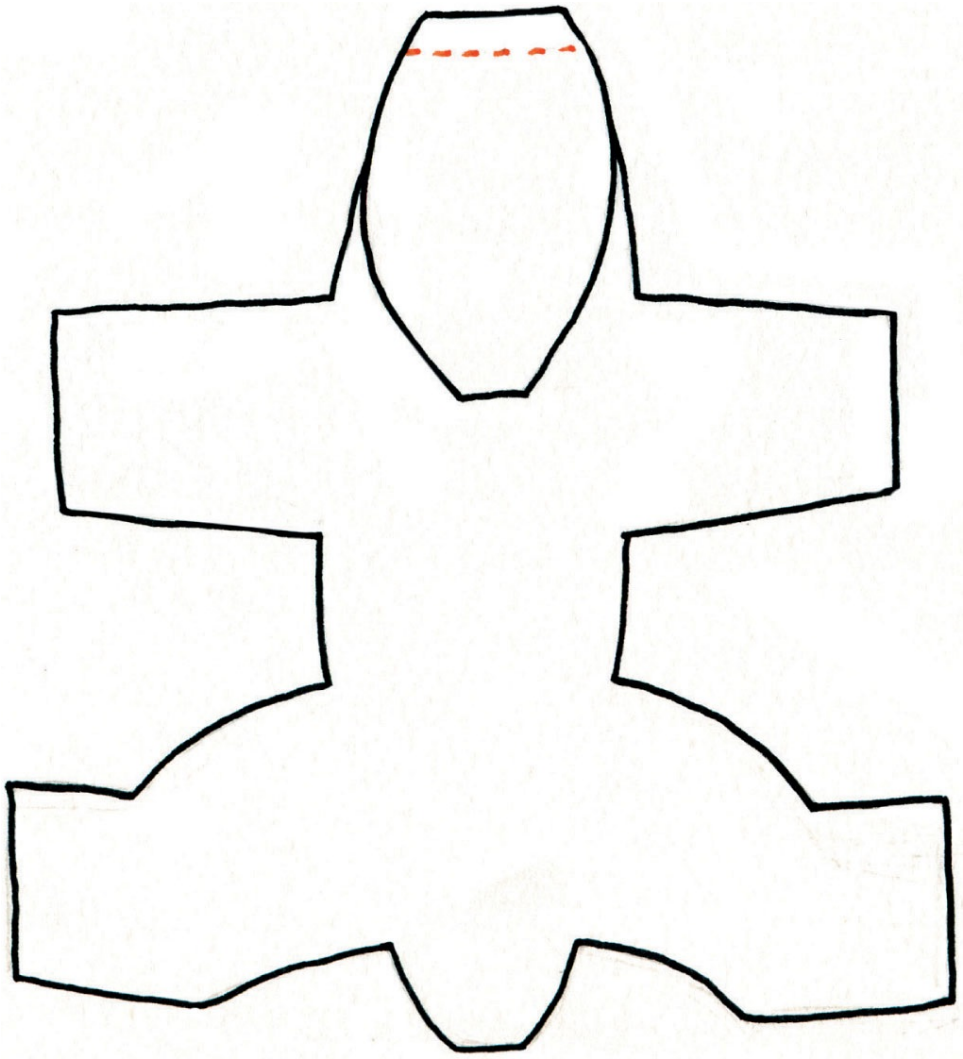
(A) *Stitch ear to side piece.*

2. Matching the double notches, align the edge of the muzzle piece to the head portion of a side piece; stitch (B). Repeat to add the remaining muzzle to the other side.



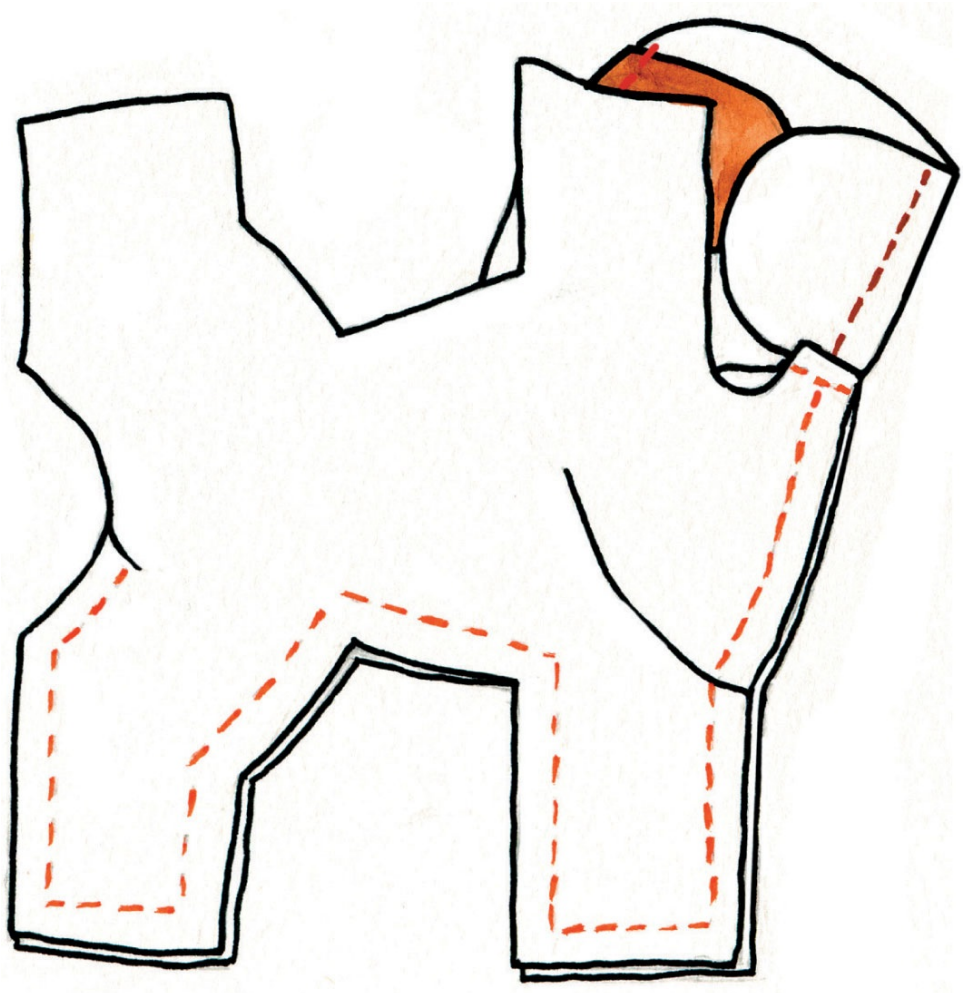
(B) *Stitch muzzle to side piece.*

3. Align the wider straight edge of the chin panel with the corresponding edge of the underside and stitch (C).



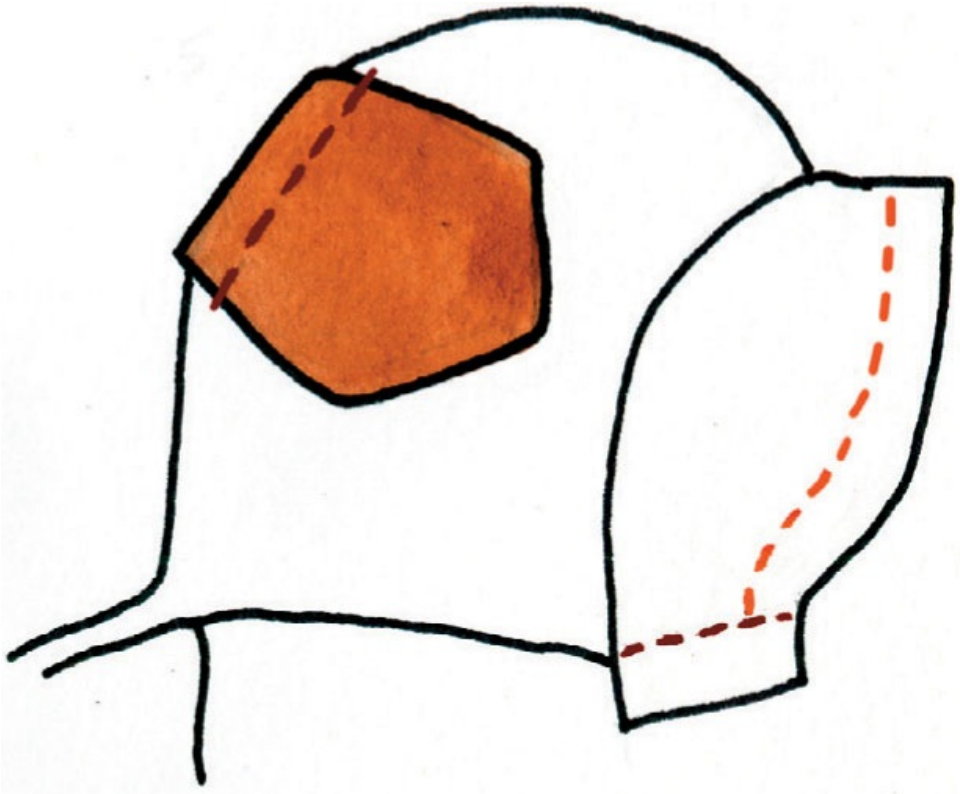
(C) *Stitch chin panel to underside.*

4. Align and pin the underside to one side piece. Stitch from the circle at the neck to the rear diamond mark (D). Repeat on the other side.



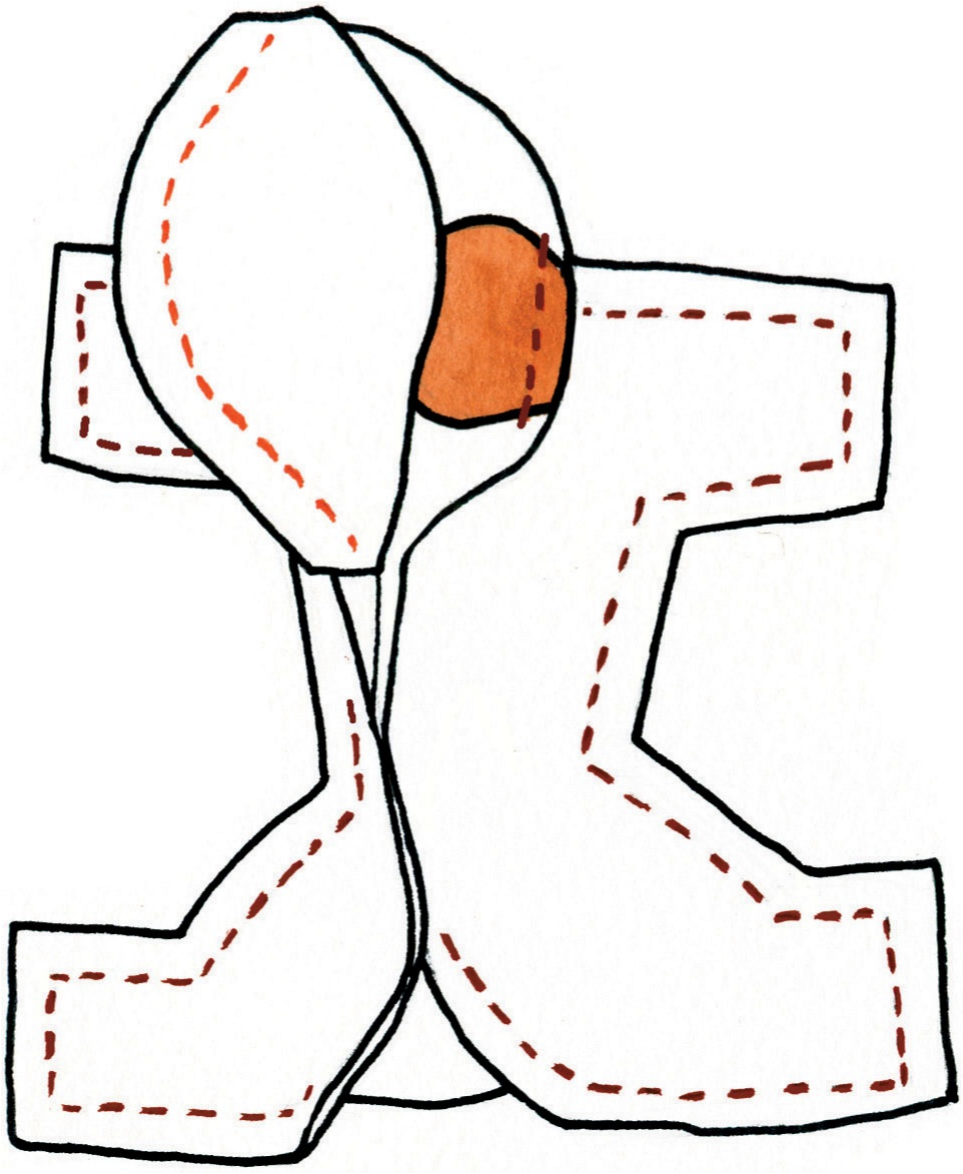
(D) *Sew underside to one side piece.*

5. Align one side of the chin panel with the edge of the muzzle and stitch (E). Repeat with other side.



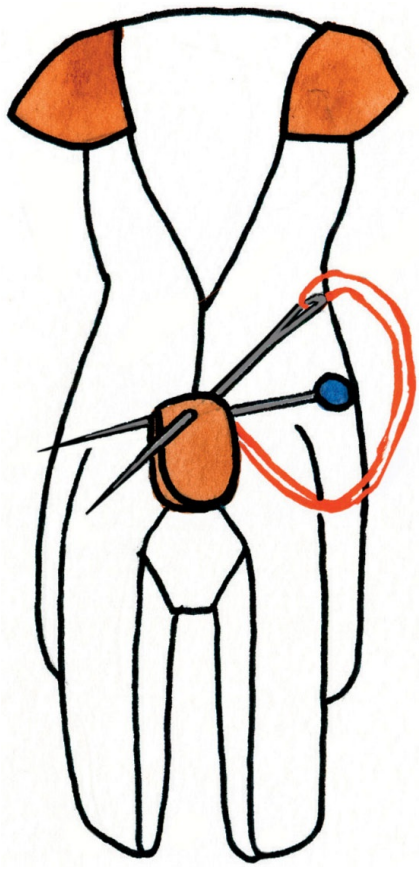
(E) *Stitch chin panel to muzzle.*

6. Stitch the side pieces together along the back from the rear diamond to about 3/4" (2 cm) before the neck. Sew one side of the head panel to the side piece, starting at the seam of the side piece and the muzzle (F). Repeat to attach the other side of the head panel. It's okay if these seams don't meet up perfectly; when you're finished, the intersection will be covered up when the nose is sewn. Turn right side out and stuff; hand stitch the opening closed.



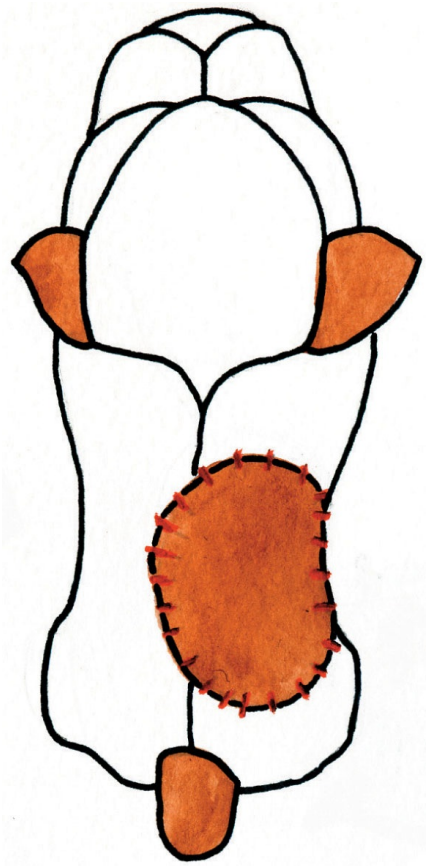
(F) *Stitch the side pieces together; add head panel.*

7. Sew the two tail pieces together, leaving the straight edge unsewn; turn right side out and lightly stuff. Pin the tail to where the underside meets the sides; hand stitch the tail in place (G).



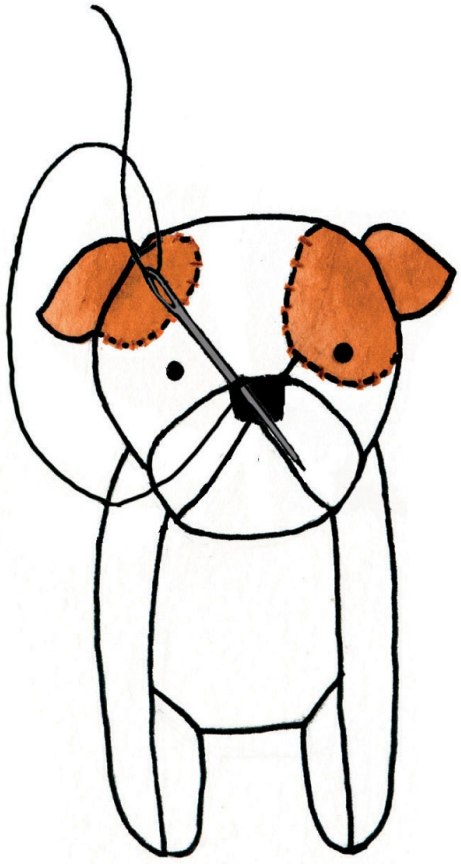
(G) *Attach tail.*

8. Appliqué the three felt spots to the face and body using the whipstitch (H).



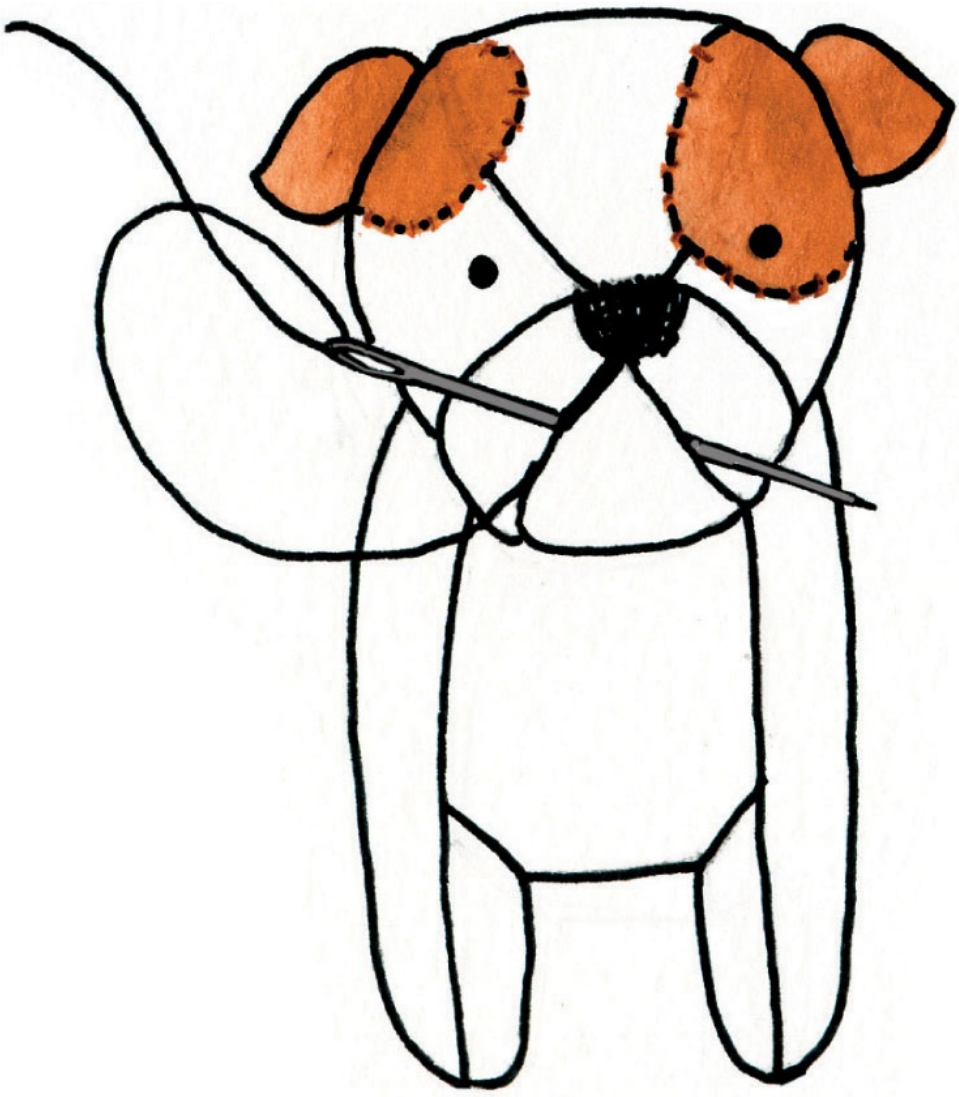
(H) *Whipstitch spots in place.*

9. With black all-purpose thread, embroider the eyes with a series of tiny stitches in the form of an asterisk. Appliqué the nose to the face (I).



(I) *Embroider eyes and appliqué nose.*

10. Backstitch along the muzzle seams to create the mouth; start at the nose and stop 1/2" (1.3 cm) down on each side (J).



(J) *Embroider mouth.*

project 9

sitting cat

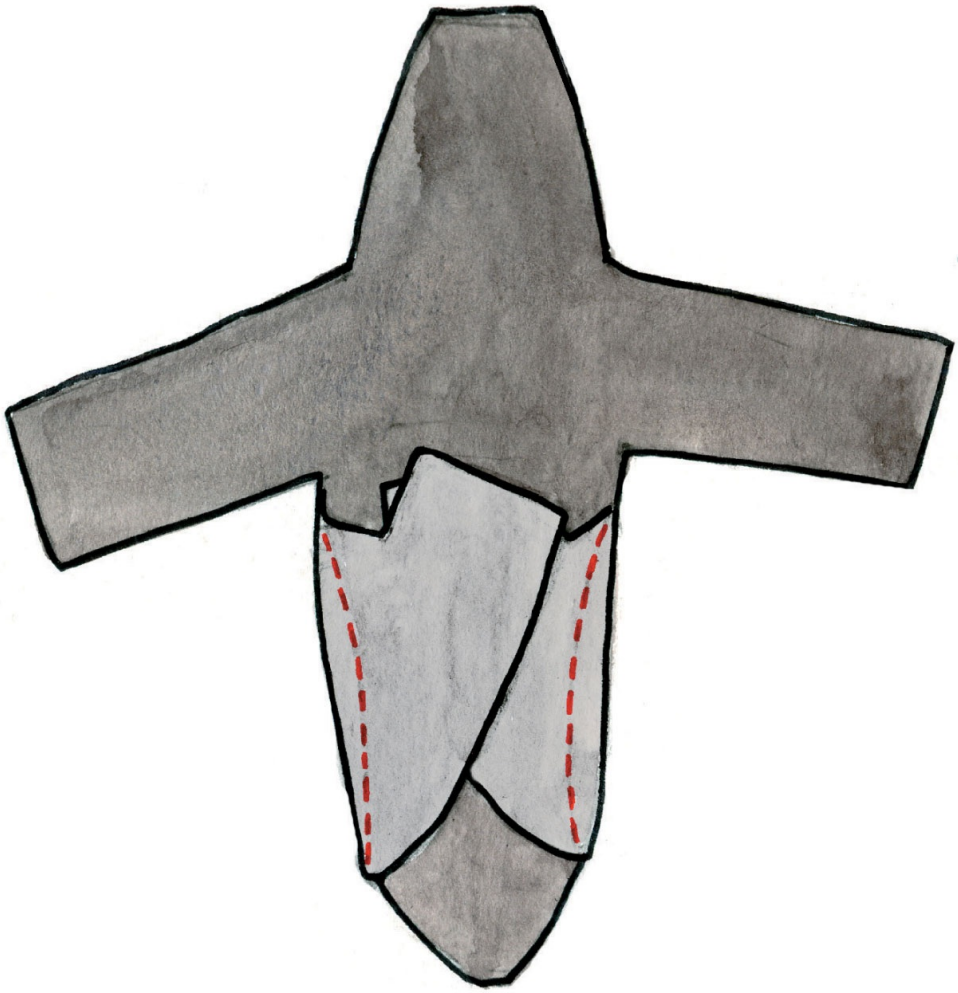
Make this cute cat all black for a sweet Halloween decoration or customize to your feline's coloring!

Size of cat shown: 6" (15.2 cm) tall
Use patterns on page 124 at 200%.

MATERIALS

- medium-weight wool fabric
- medium-weight cotton fabric for inside ears
- felt for nose and eyes
- all-purpose sewing thread
- black all-purpose thread for eyes
- white quilting thread
- fiberfill

1. With the underside right side up, fold the cat's rear legs toward the center along the dashed line indicated on the pattern. Stitch from one corner of the fold to the other in a crescent shape (A). The widest part of the crescent should be 3/8" (1 cm). Repeat on the opposite leg, taking care not to catch the other leg in the stitching.

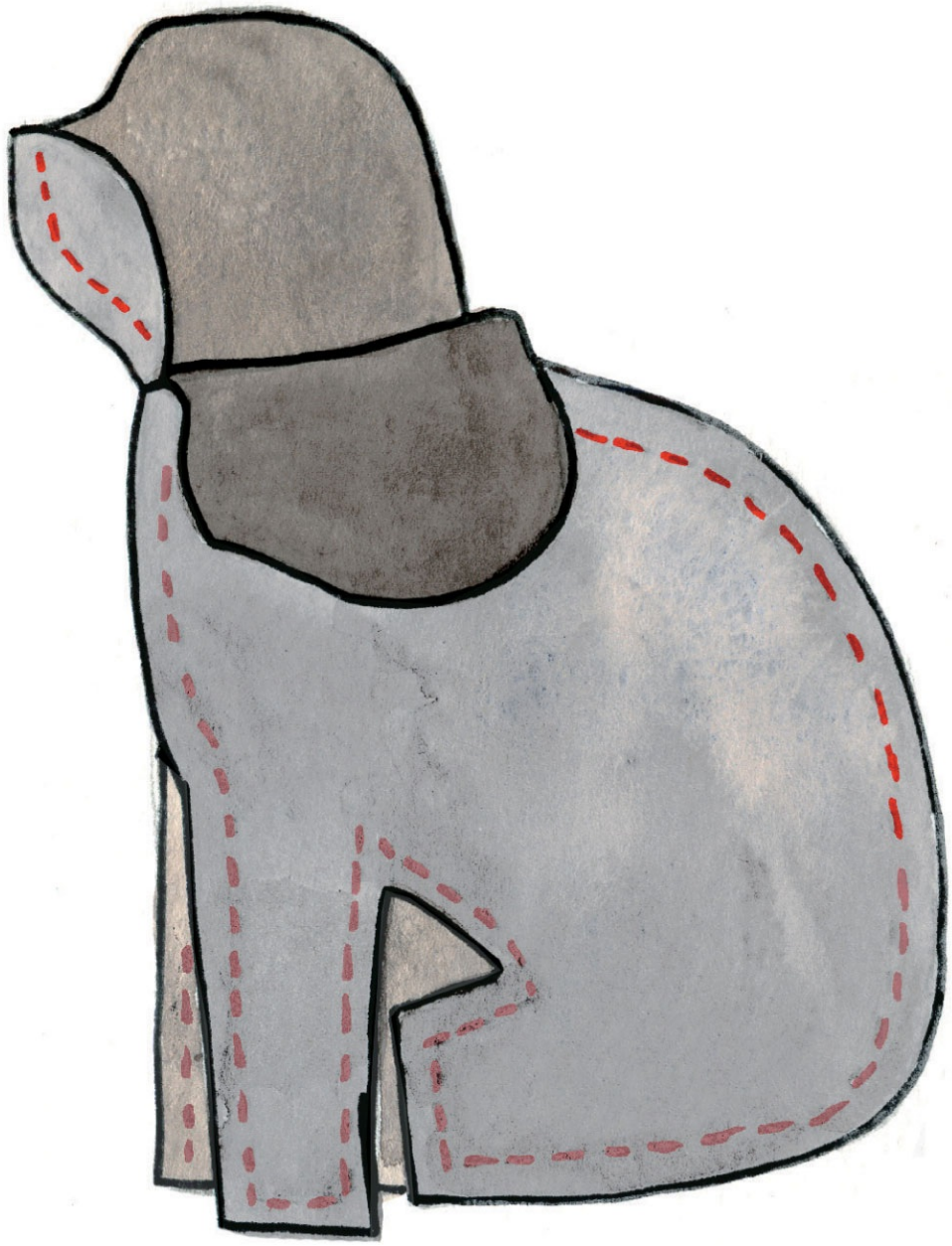


(A) *Stitch down rear legs.*

2. Pin the underside to one side piece. Stitch from the circle at the neck to the rear diamond mark (B). Repeat with the other side.

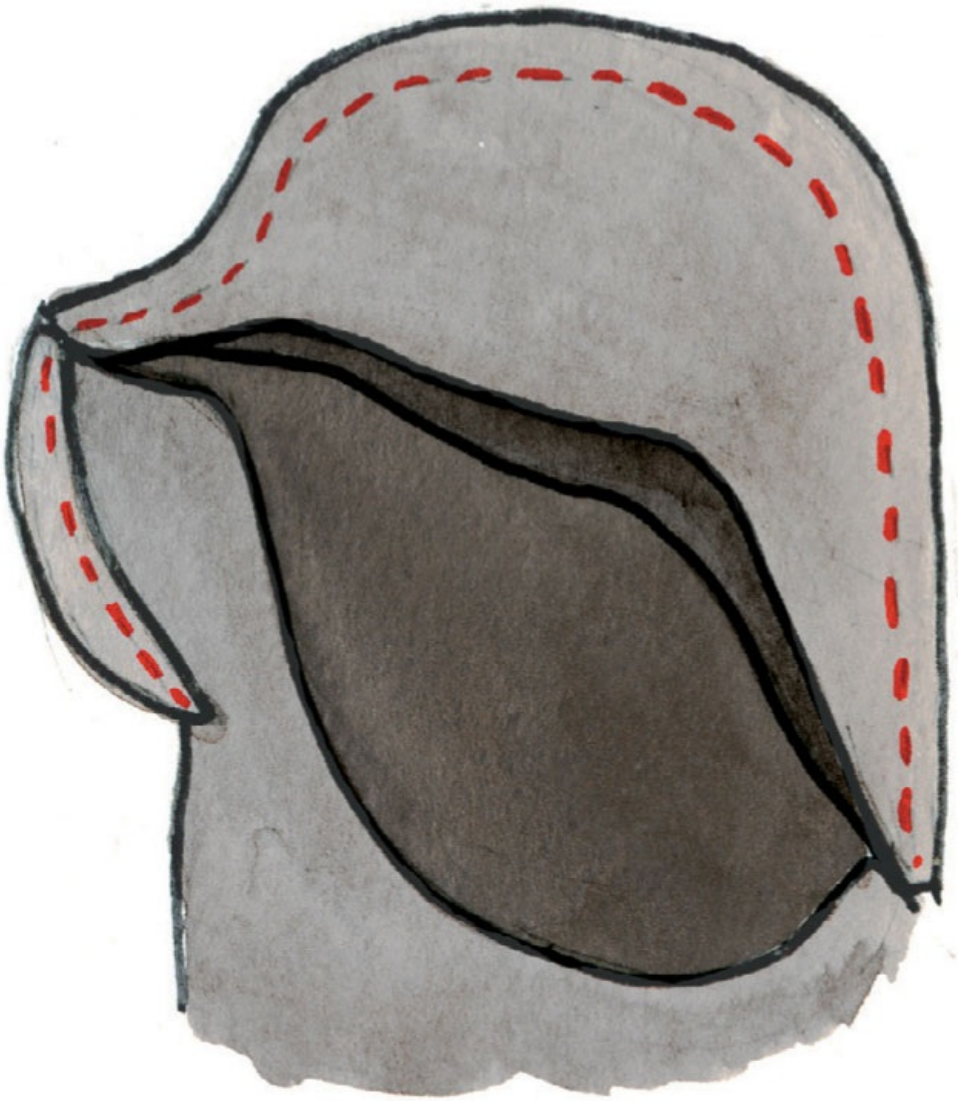
(B) *Stitch underside to one side.*

3. Align one side of the chin panel with one side piece; stitch along one side (C). Repeat to sew the other side. Stitch sides together from diamond marking to the neck.



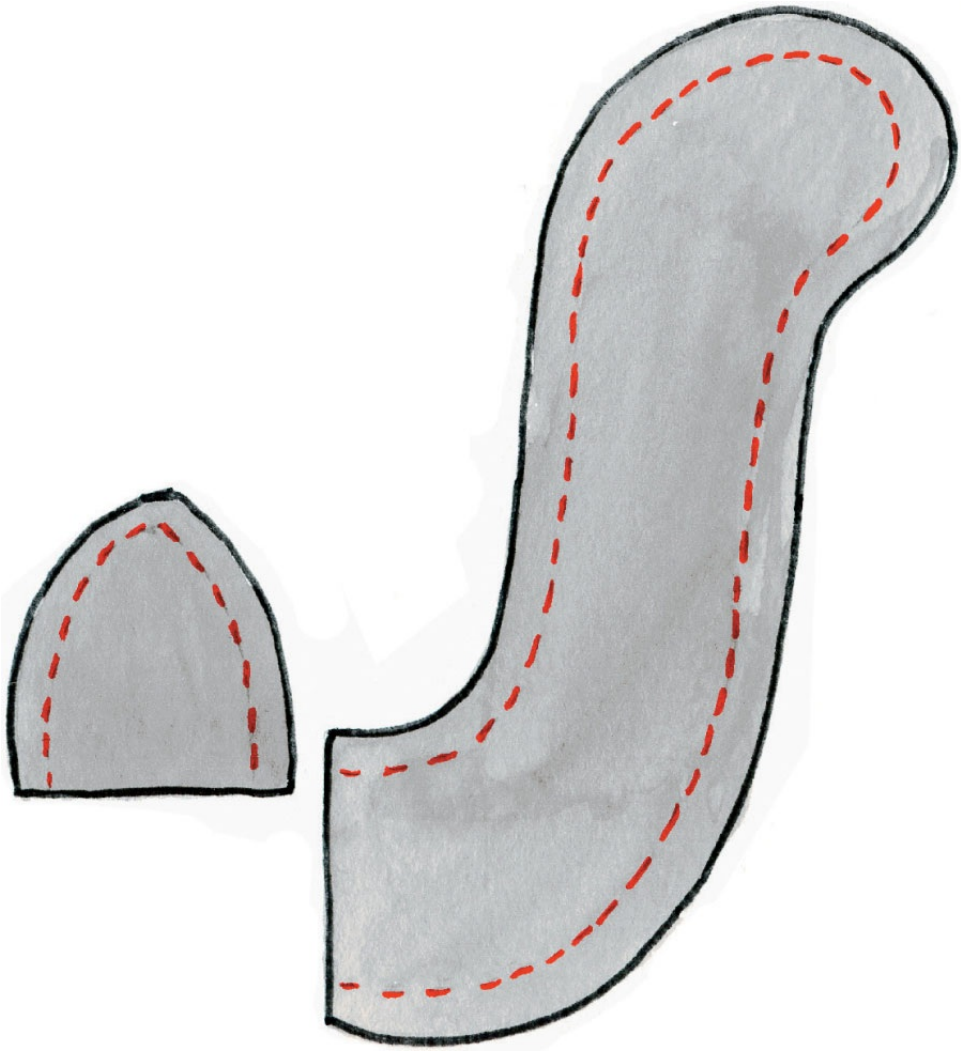
(C) *Stitch chin panel to side.*

4. Pin one side of the head panel to one side piece. Stitch together from the narrower end of the head panel around to the back of the head (D). Repeat with the other side, but this time leave a 1" (2.5 cm) opening at the back of the head. Turn the cat's body right side out through the opening, stuff, and hand stitch the opening closed.



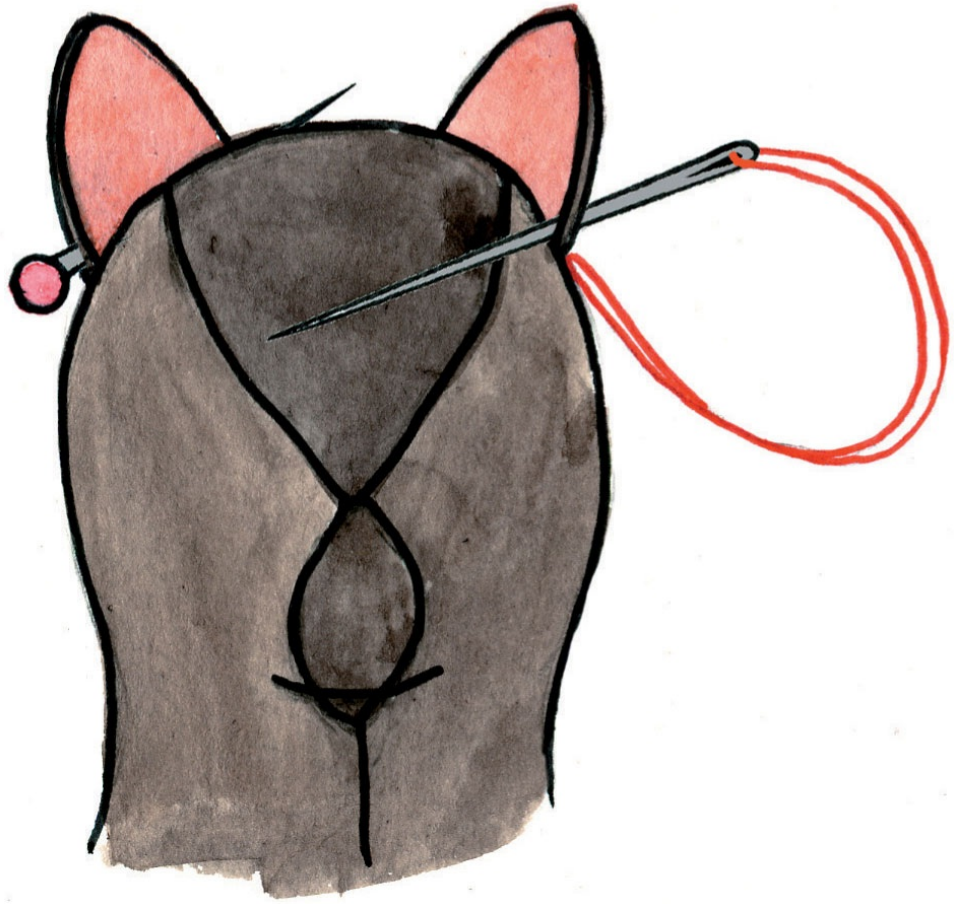
(D) *Stitch head panel to side.*

5. Sew the tail pieces together, leaving the straight edge unsewn. Sew two ear pieces together; leave the straight edge unsewn. Repeat with the other ear (E). Turn the tail and ears right side out, and stuff the tail.



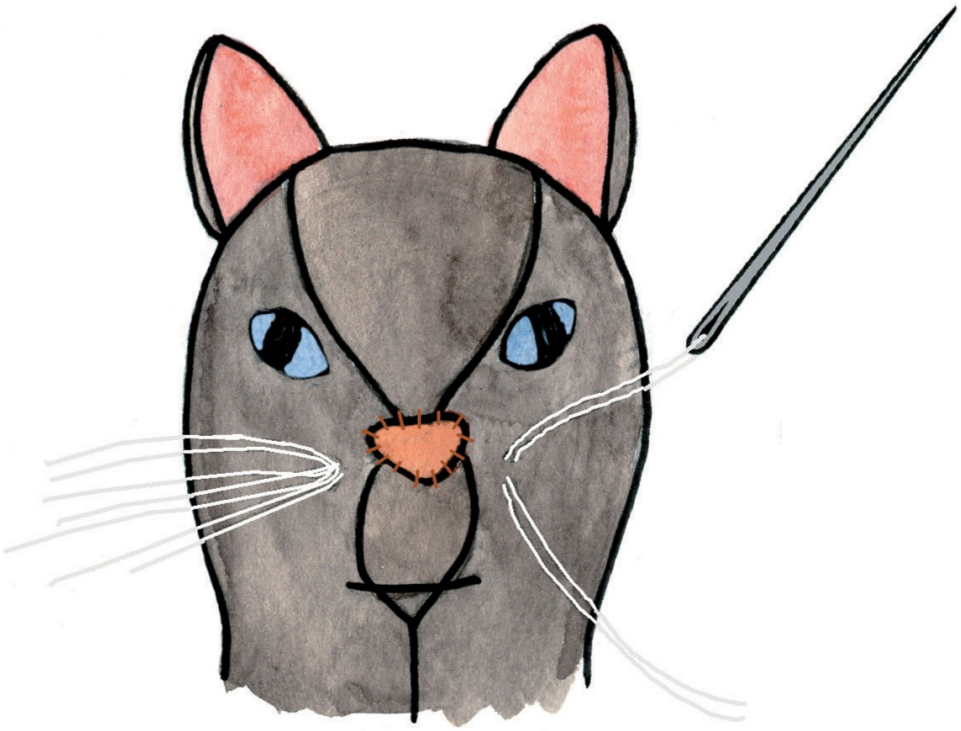
(E) *Sew ears and tail.*

6. Tuck in the raw edges of the ears and pin closed. Pin the ears to the cat's head and hand stitch in place (F). Appliqué the nose and eyes onto the head. For the eye detail, thread a needle with black all-purpose thread and tie a knot at the end. Anchor the knot behind the felt of one eye. Make several vertical stitches across the center of the felt; repeat on the other eye. Tie off the thread behind the felt eye to hide the knot.



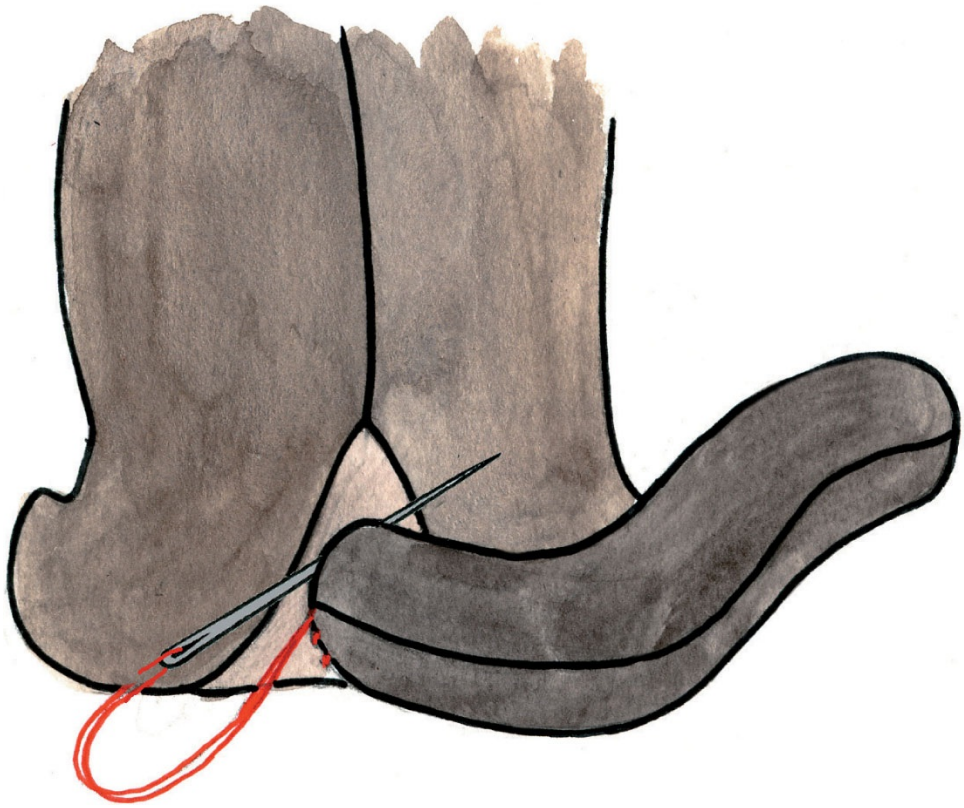
(F) *Attach ears.*

7. For the whiskers, thread a needle with about 6" (15 cm) of white quilting thread, but do not knot the ends. Make a tiny stitch near the nose and leave long thread tails. Tie the strands together to keep the whiskers in place. Make one more set of whiskers on the same side. Repeat on the other side of the nose (G).



(G) *Add whiskers.*

8. Tuck in the raw edges of the tail and pin to the cat's body. Hand stitch the tail in place (H).



(H) *Attach tail.*

project 10

raccoon

Here’s a little masked bandit with a patchwork tail! I paired a graphic black-and-white floral print with a muted plaid for this guy’s signature stripes.

Size of raccoon shown: 4" (10.2 cm) tall
Use patterns on page 124 at 200%.

MATERIALS

- medium-weight cotton fabrics
- black felt for face
- all-purpose sewing thread
- black embroidery floss
- fiberfill

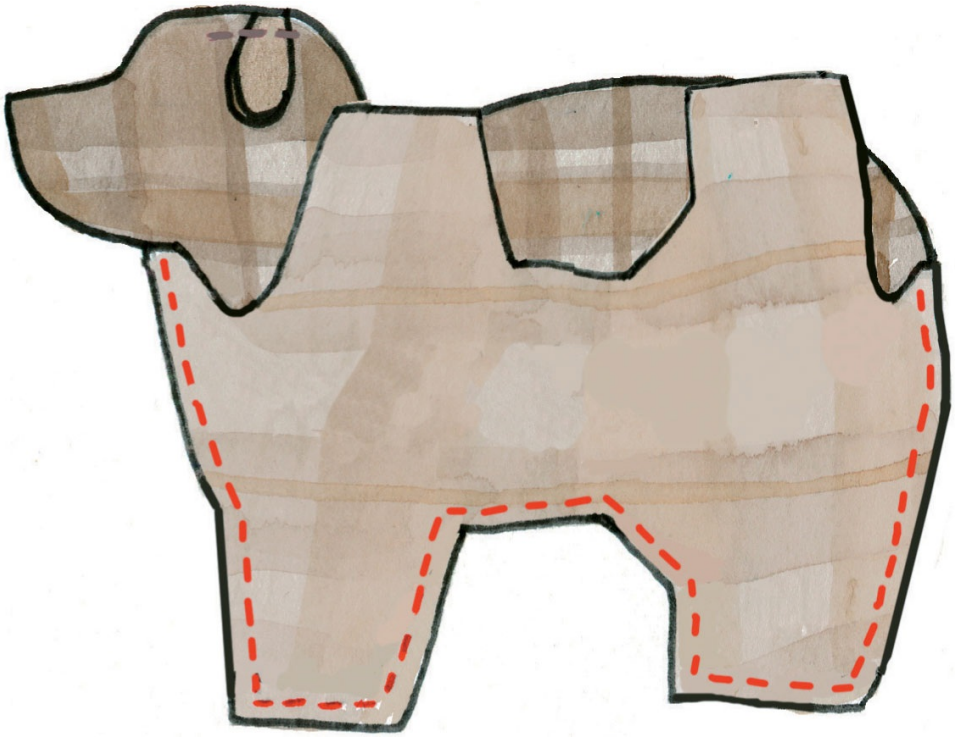
1. Set aside the tail pattern, and then cut the rest of the patterns out of fabric. Sew two ear pieces together, leaving the straight edge unsewn (A). Repeat with other two ear pieces; turn right side out.

(A) *Sew ear pieces together.*

2. Fold an ear in half and align the raw edges with one side piece at the notch. Make sure the ear is on the fabric right side of the side piece and the fold is toward the back of the head. Stitch in place within the 1/4" (6 mm) seam allowance (B). Repeat to attach the other ear.

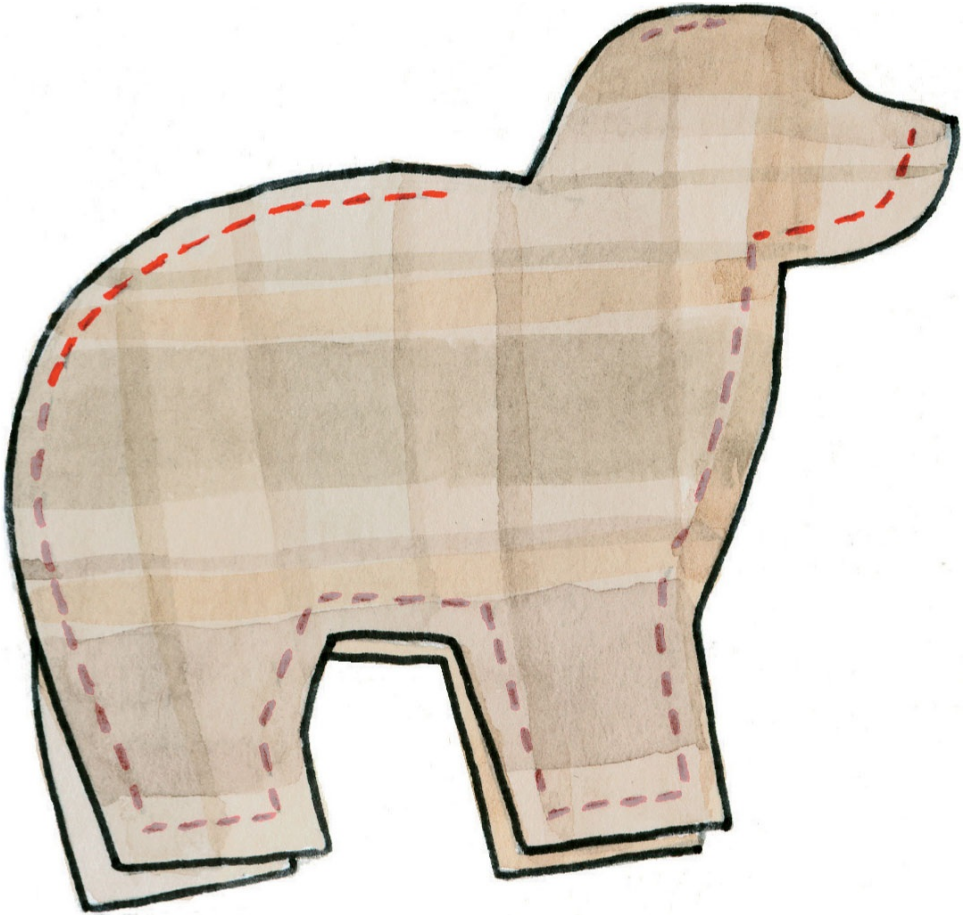
(B) *Attach ear to side piece.*

3. Align the underside piece with one of the side pieces. Stitch from the circle on the chest to the diamond mark at the rear (C). Repeat with the other side piece.



(C) *Stitch underside to side.*

4. Stitch the sides together along the lower muzzle and along the back, stopping about 1/2" (1.3 cm) shy of the neck (D).



(D) *Stitch around muzzle and along back.*

5. Align one side of the head panel with the side piece and stitch together. Repeat with the other side, but this time stop sewing just after the ear (E). Use the opening to turn the raccoon right side out, stuff, and hand stitch the opening closed.

(E) *Stitch head panel to sides.*

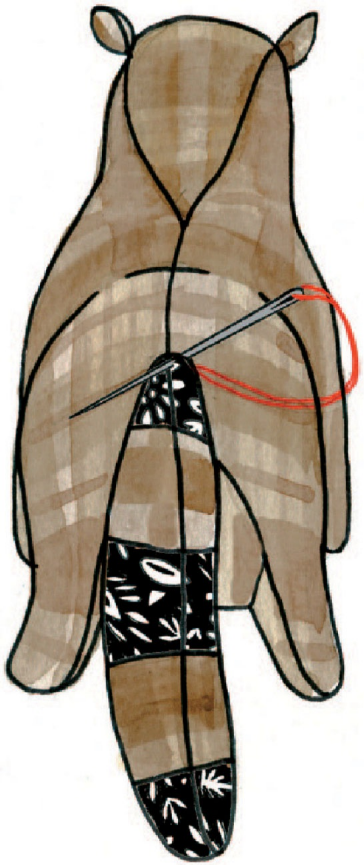
6. To make the tail you will need five strips of fabric measuring 1-3/4"×4" (4.5 × 10 cm). Cut two strips from your main fabric and three strips from a contrast fabric. Stitch the strips together along the lengthwise edges, alternating the main and contrast fabrics (F). Press the seams open.

(F) *Create patchwork for tail.*

7. Fold the patchwork strip in half lengthwise and cut along the fold. Cut the tail pattern from each patchwork strip. Stitch the tail pieces together, leaving the straight edge and 3/4" (2 cm) of one side open for turning (G). Turn the tail right side, stuff, and hand stitch the 3/4" (2 cm) side opening closed.

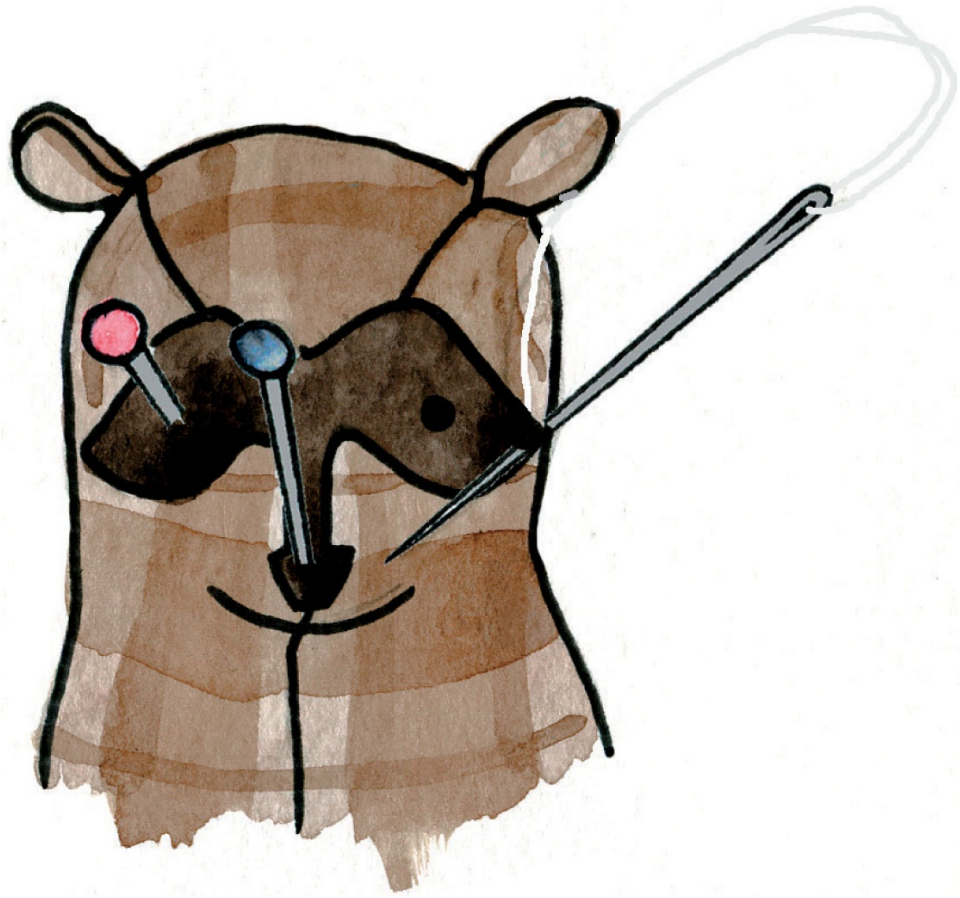
(G) *Sew tail pieces together.*

8. Fold in the tail raw edges, pin in place, and stitch to the raccoon body (H).



(H) *Attach tail.*

9. Pin the felt face piece to the raccoon and appliqué in place (I).



(I) *Appliqué felt face piece.*

10. To embroider the eyes, use all six strands of embroidery floss, and tie a double knot in one end. Insert the needle where you'd like an eye to be, and push the needle out the opposite side. Tie another double knot (J) and clip the thread. The double knots will make the eyes slightly three-dimensional so they will be more visible against the black felt.

(J) *Embroider eyes.*

project 11

pug

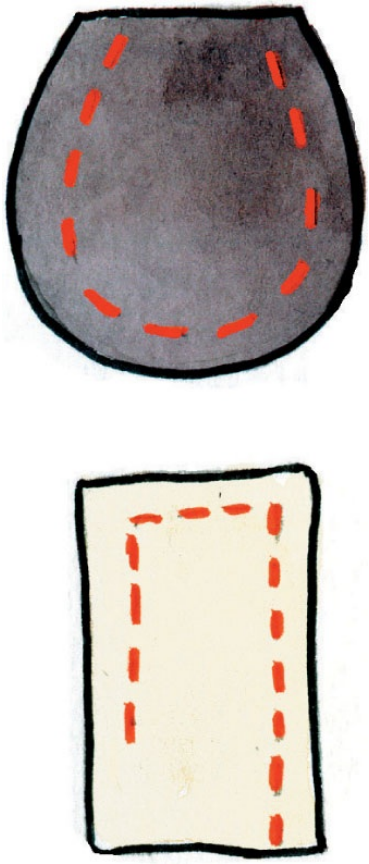
I used an old pair of khaki pants to make this wrinkly faced fellow. Add some color with a patterned kerchief!

Size of pug shown: 4-3/4" (12 cm) tall
Use patterns on pages 124–125 at 200%.

MATERIALS

- medium-weight cotton fabrics
- medium-weight wool fabric for ears and muzzle
- felt for nose and eyes
- all-purpose sewing thread
- pipe cleaner
- fiberfill

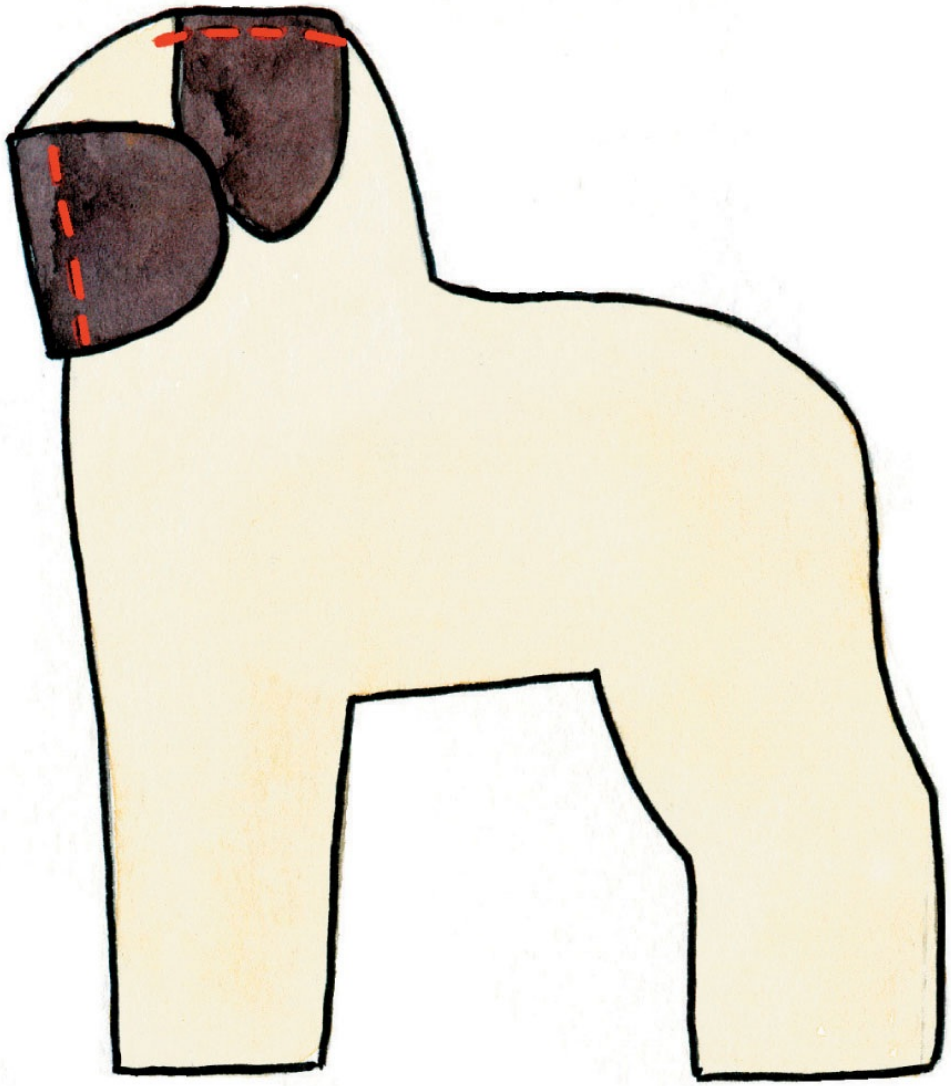
1. Stitch two ear pieces together, leaving the straight edge and about 1/4" (6 mm) on one side unsewn. Repeat with the other ear; turn right side out. Stitch together the two tail pieces, leaving one short side and 3/4" (2 cm) of one long side unsewn for turning right side out (A). Cut a 5" (12.5 cm) section from a pipe cleaner, fold in half, and turn the sharp ends inward. Turn the tail right side out and insert the folded pipe cleaner; set aside.



(A) *Sew ear and tail pieces together.*

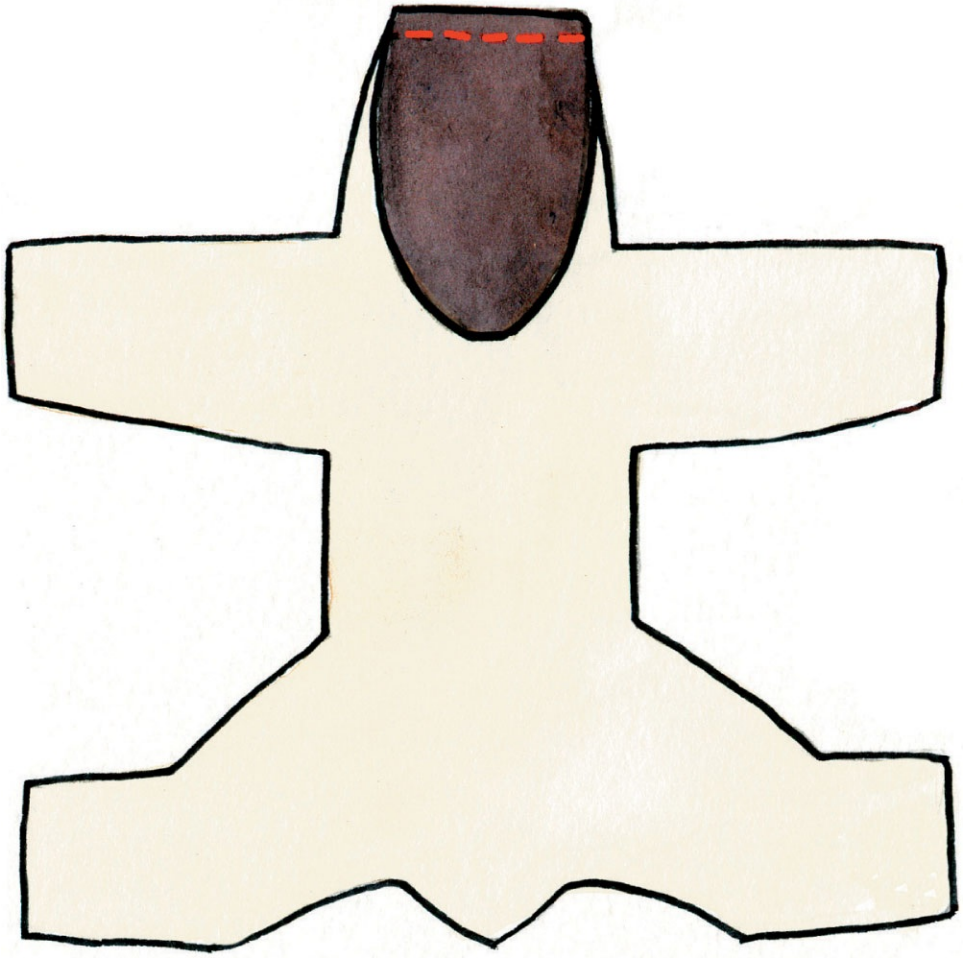
If you don’t have any pipe cleaners handy, use the twist ties that come with garbage bags! You’ll need to use two of them twisted together and then folded in half to create the curve of the pug’s tail.

2. Align the straight edge of one muzzle piece with one side piece; stitch together. Repeat with the remaining muzzle and side piece. Baste an ear to a side piece, centering the ear on the pattern marking and keeping stitches within the 1/4" (6 mm) seam allowance (B). Repeat to add the remaining ear to the other side piece.



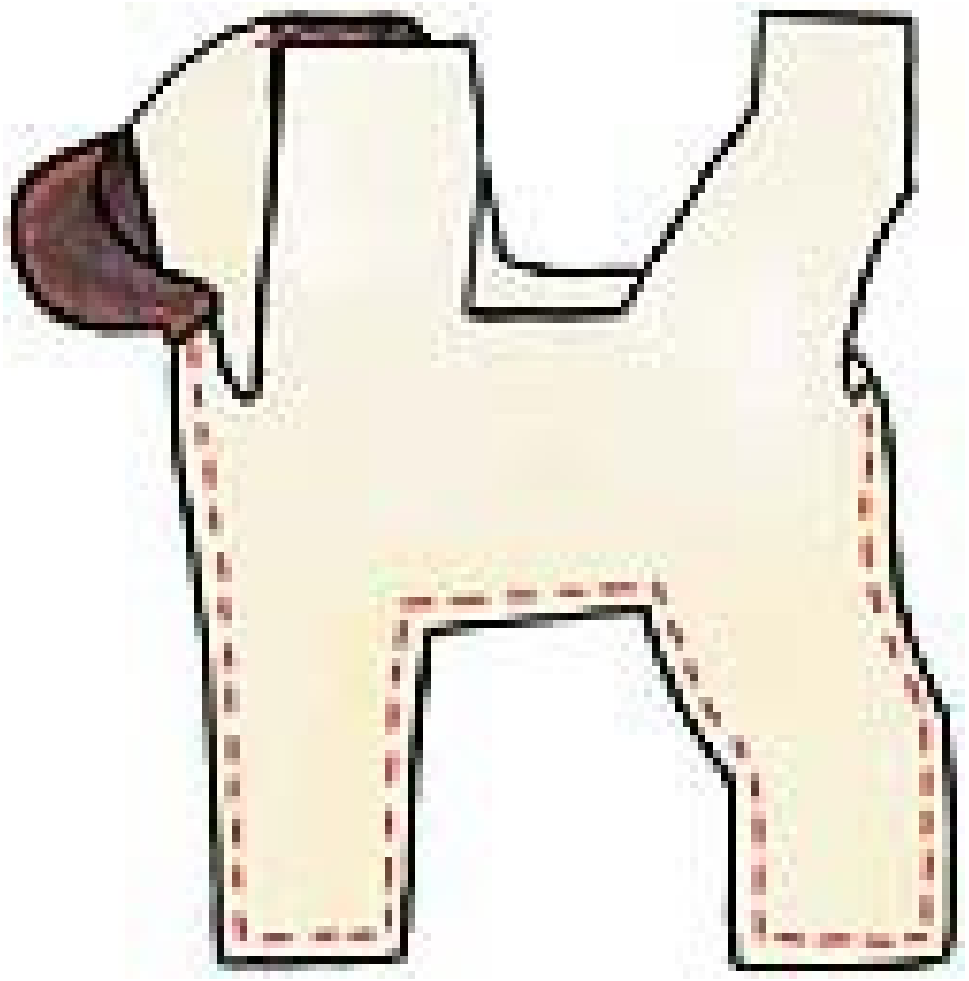
(B) *Sew muzzle and ear to side piece.*

3. Stitch the straight edge of the chin panel to the corresponding edge of the underside (C).



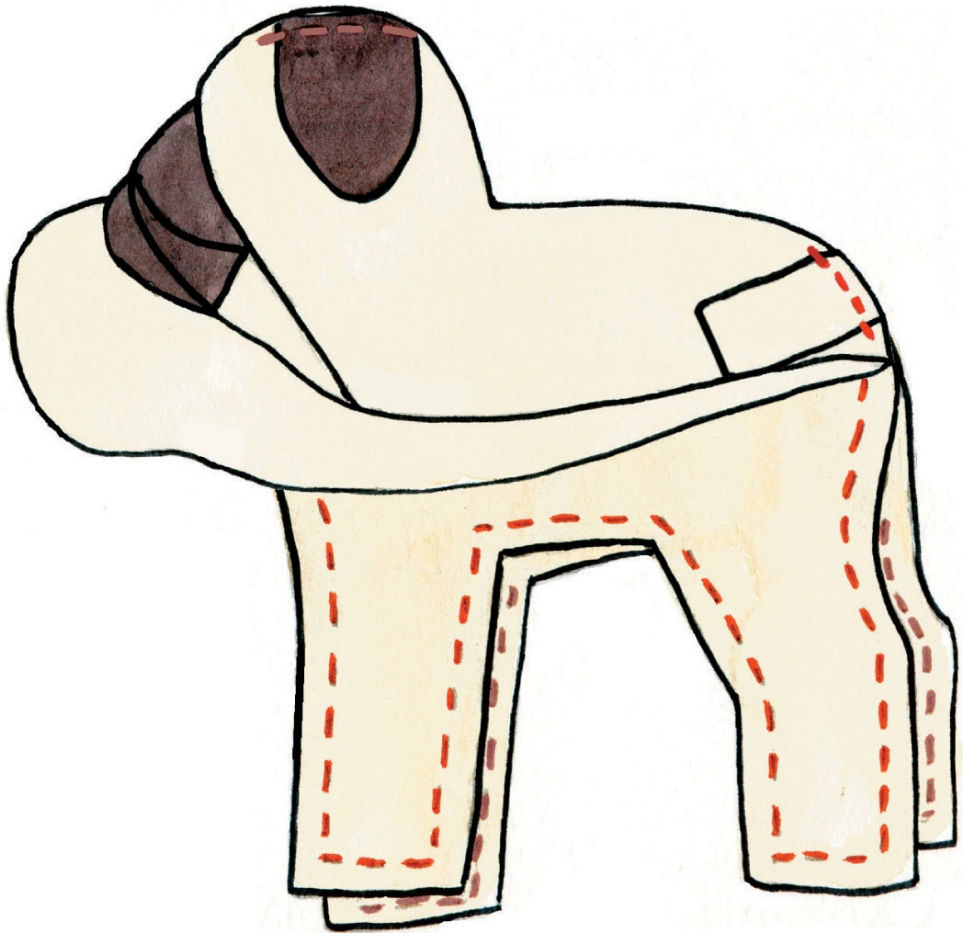
(C) *Sew chin panel to underside.*

4. Align the underside with one side piece; stitch from the rear end to the chin panel. Align one side of the chin panel with the edge of the muzzle and stitch (D). Repeat with other side.



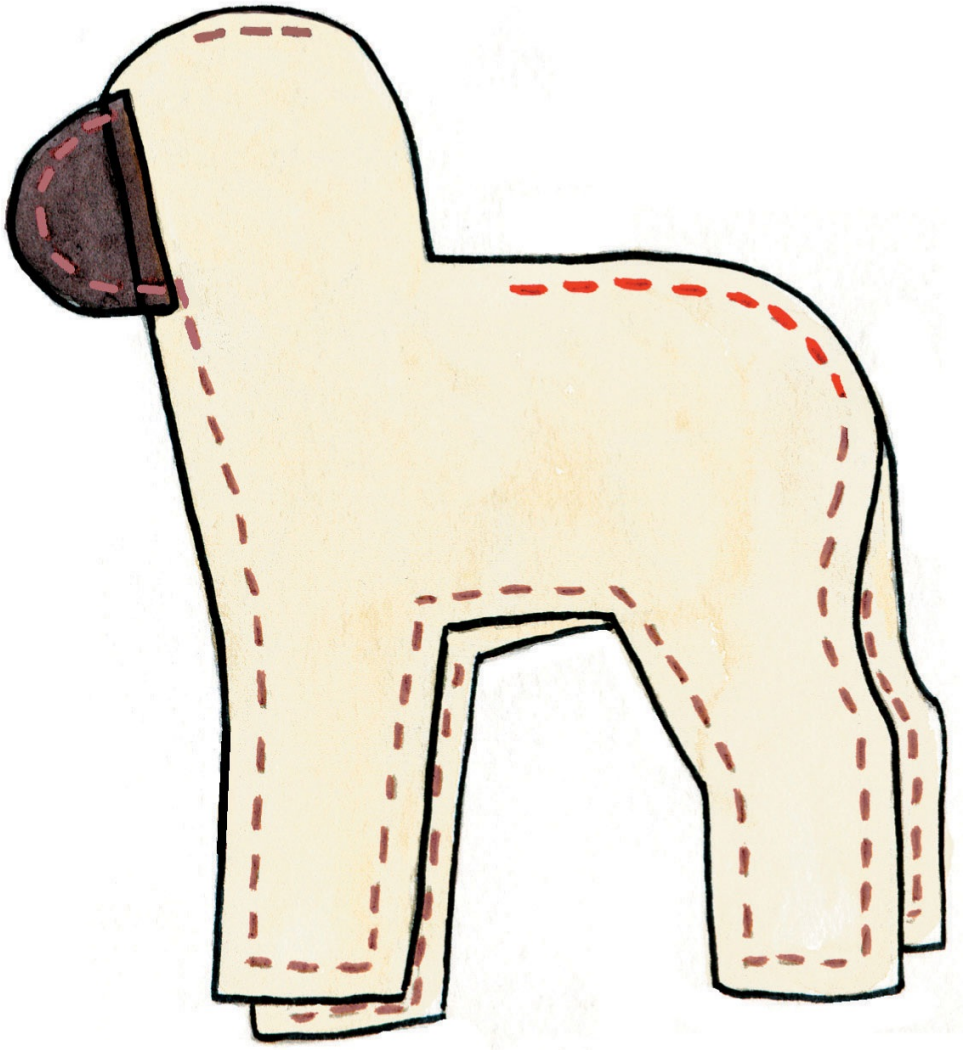
(D) *Stitch underside to one side. Stitch chin panel to muzzle.*

5. Align the straight edge of the tail with one side, and baste in place within the seam allowance (E).



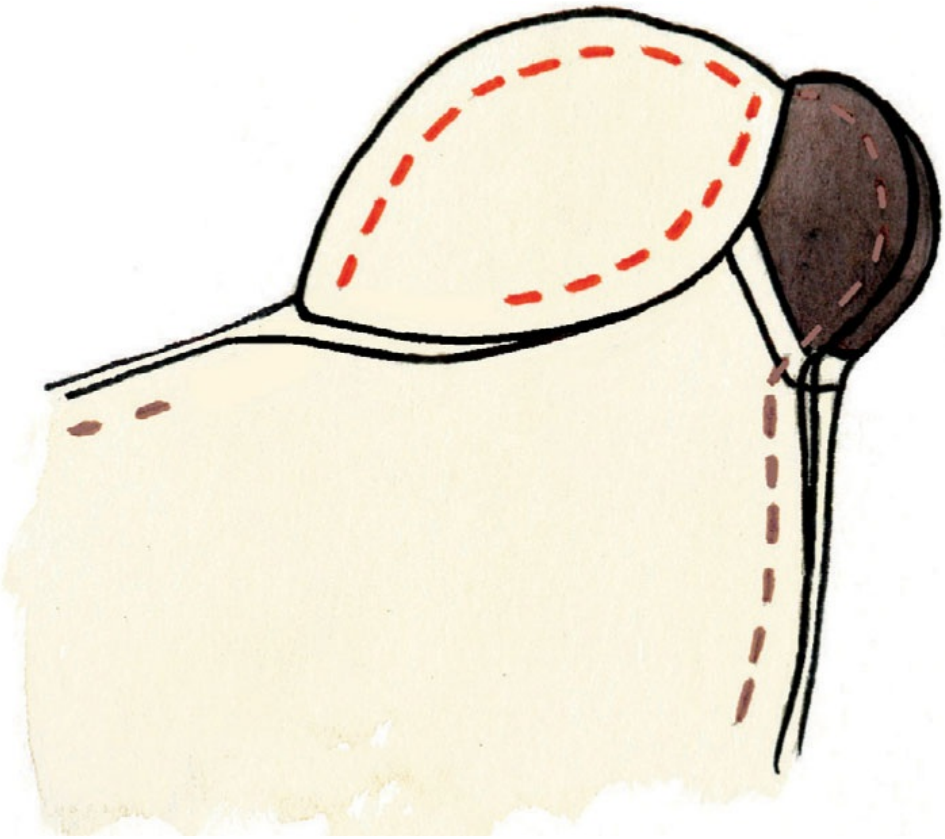
(E) *Stitch tail to one side.*

6. Stitch the sides together along the back, stopping about 1/2" (1.3 cm) shy of the neck (F).



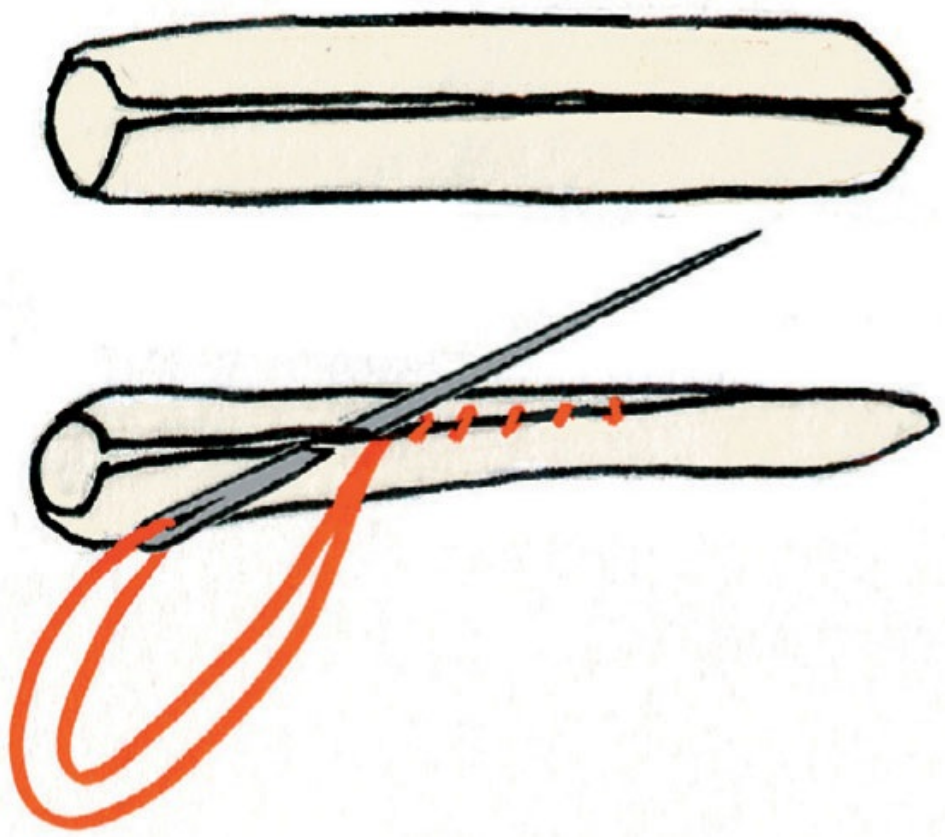
(F) *Stitch sides together along back.*

7. Stitch one side of the head panel to one side. Repeat on the other side, stopping just after you sew over the ear (G). Turn the pug right side out through the opening, stuff, and hand stitch the opening closed.



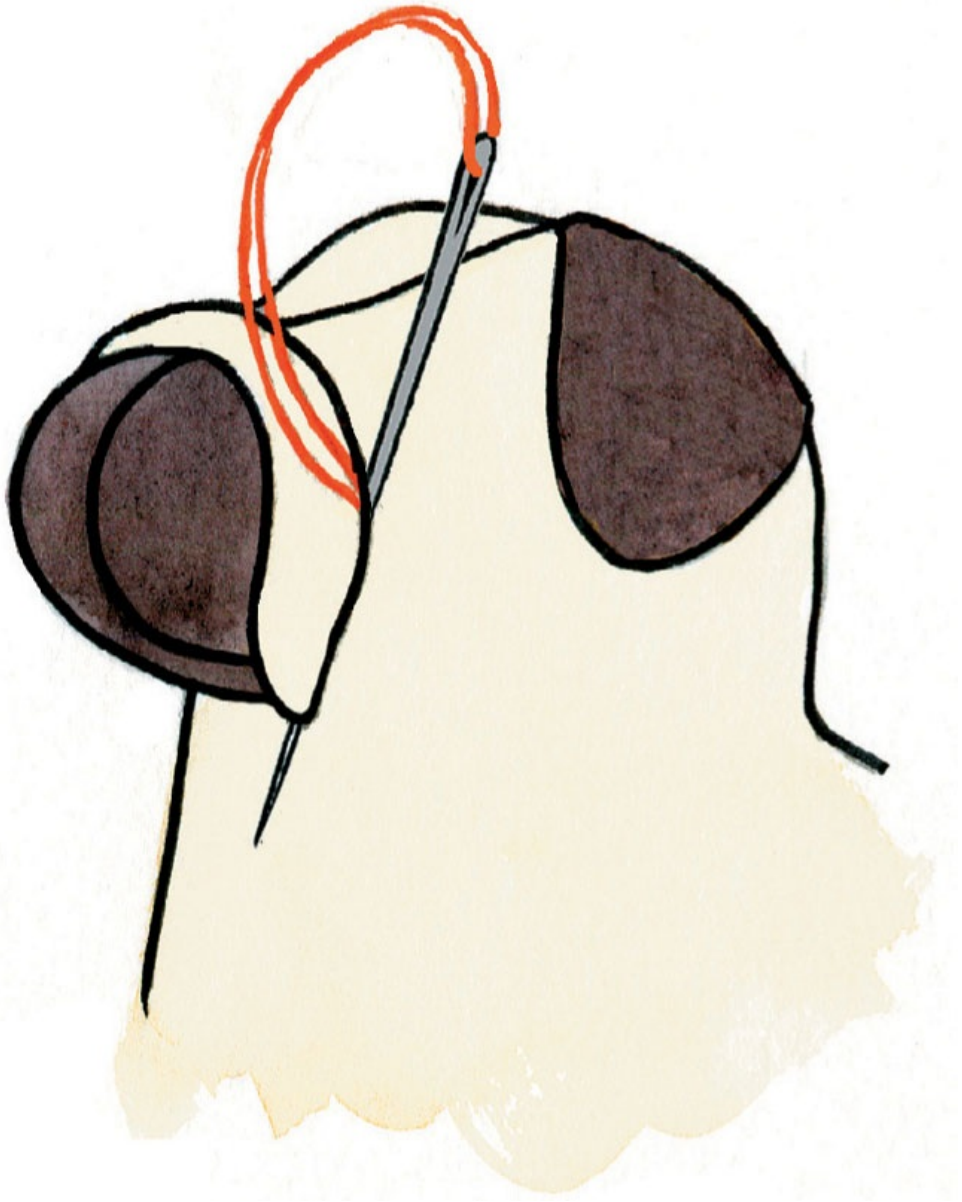
(G) *Stitch head panel to sides.*

8. With the wrong side facing up, fold the long edges of the wrinkle piece toward the center, fold in half lengthwise to encase the edges, and hand stitch closed (H).



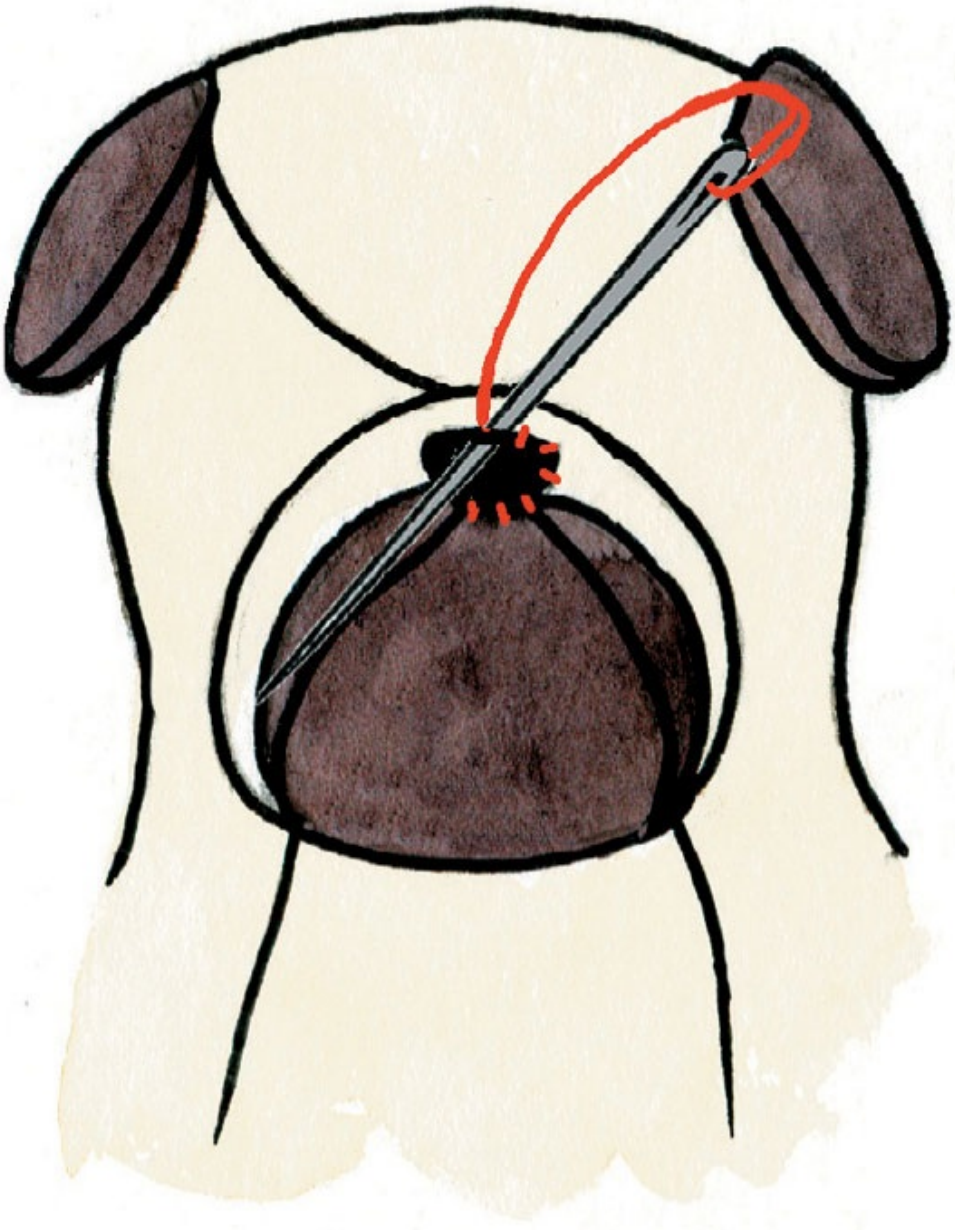
(H) *Fold wrinkle piece and hand stitch closed.*

9. Pin the wrinkle above the muzzle and hand stitch in place (l).



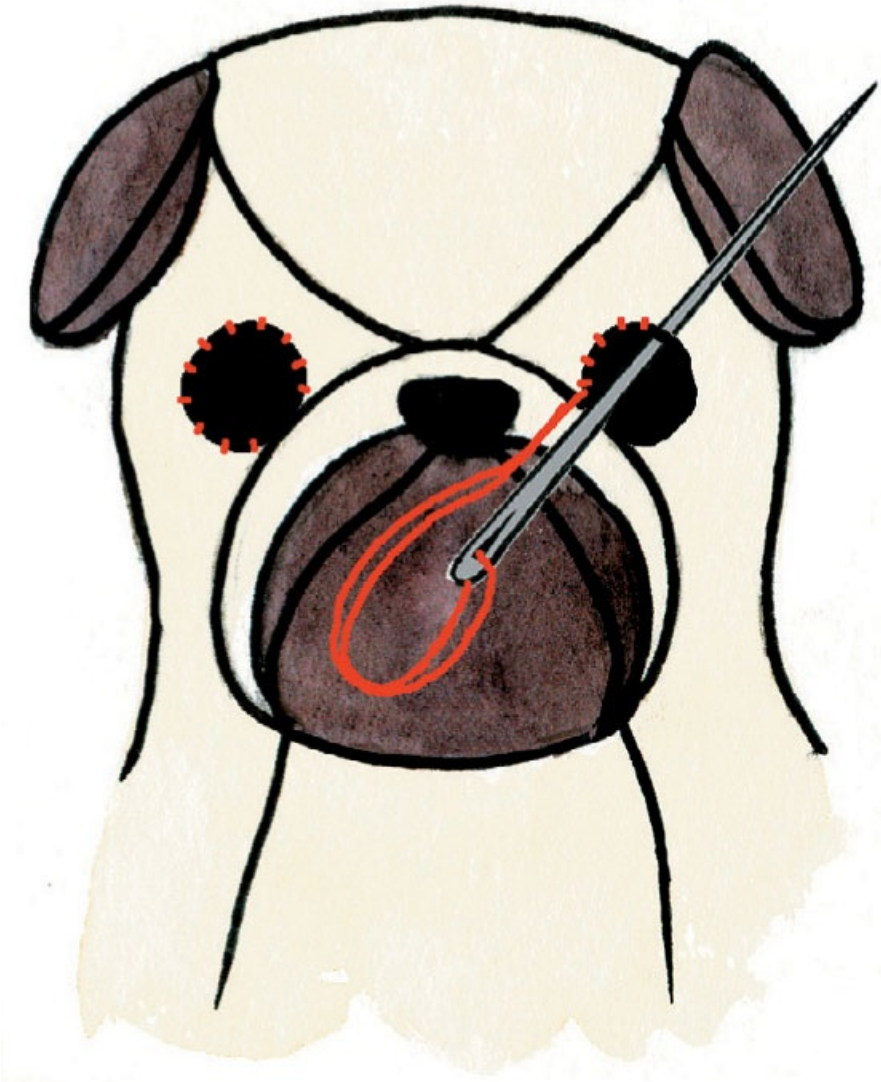
(l) *Attach wrinkle over muzzle.*

10. Hand stitch the felt nose to the pug's face (J).



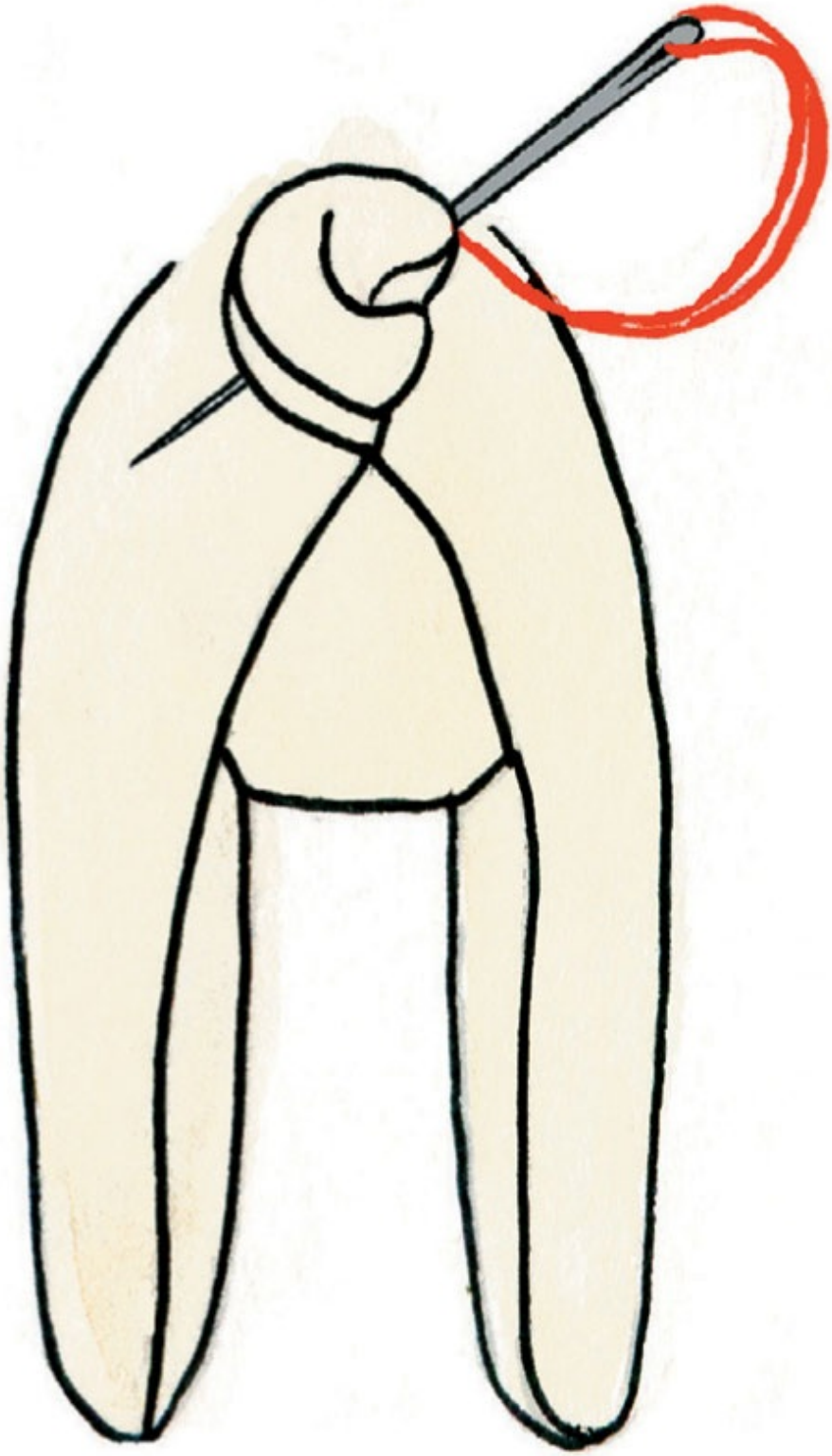
(J) *Sew on nose.*

11. Hand stitch the eyes in place (K).



(K) *Sew on eyes.*

12. Curve the tail into a C shape over the back of the pug. Use all-purpose thread to make a few tacking stitches to keep the tail in place (L).



(L) *Curve tail and tack to back.*

To make the kerchief, cut a 9" × 2" (23 × 5 cm) strip of fabric. Fold the fabric in half diagonally from corner to corner, and cut along the fold so you have an elongated triangle. Press the edges 1/4" (6 mm) to the wrong side, and topstitch along all three sides.

project 12

hedgehog mobile

This is a charming and simple mobile to hang over a crib or changing table! Use colorful fabrics to attract the little one's attention.

Size of hedgehog shown: 2-3/4" (7 cm) tall
Use patterns on page 125 at 200%.

MATERIALS

- medium-weight cotton fabrics
- black felt for nose and eyes
- all-purpose sewing thread
- white yarn
- fiberfill
- 6-1/4" (16 cm)-diameter wooden disk
- white paint
- four screw eyes

1-3/4" (4.5 cm) Susan Bates

brand pom-pom maker (optional)

protractor

ruler

hammer

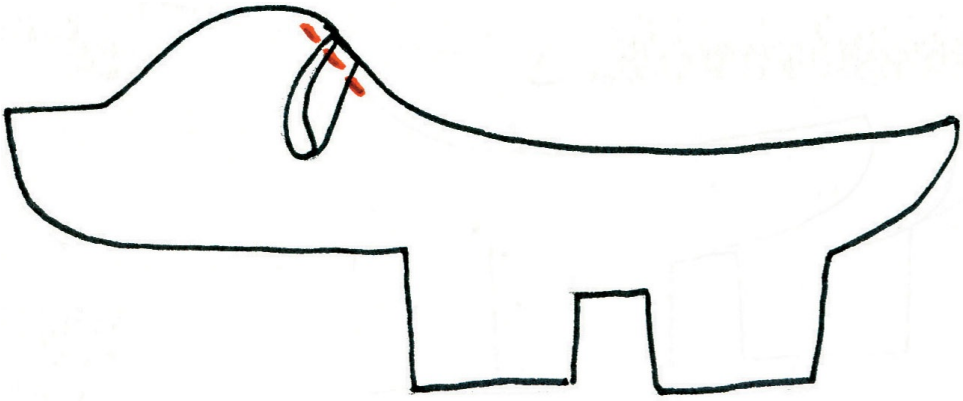
nail

The cutting instructions on the pattern pieces are for one hedgehog. You will need to make three hedgehogs for the mobile.

1. Stitch two ear pieces together, leaving the straight edge and 1/4" (6 mm) of one side unsewn (A). Repeat to sew the other ear pieces. Turn both ears right side out.

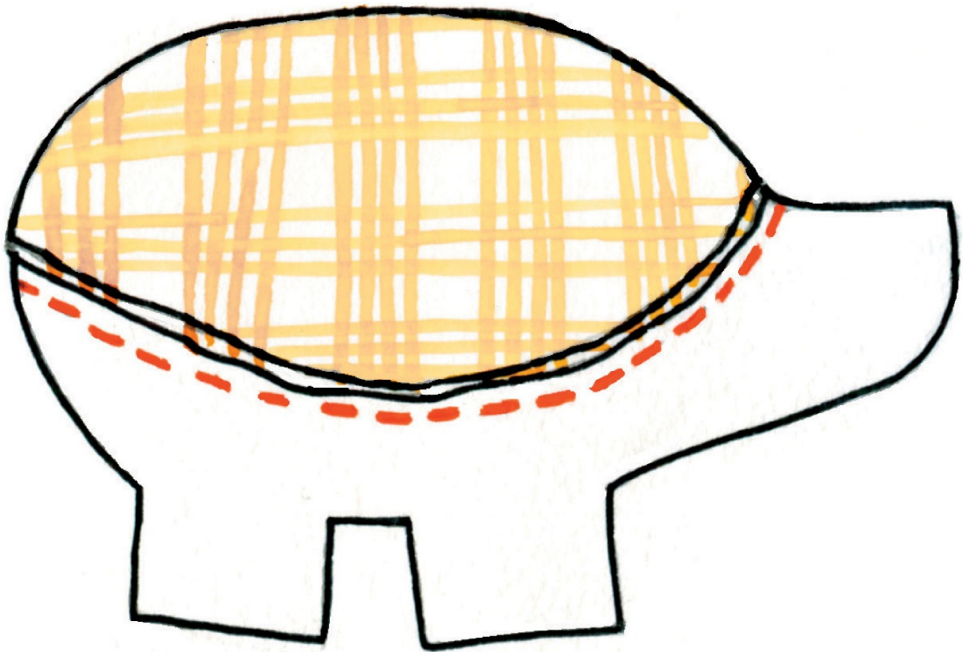
(A) *Sew ear pieces together.*

2. Fold an ear in half and align the raw edges with one side piece at the notch. Make sure the ear is on the fabric right side of the side piece and the fold is toward the back. Sew to one side piece keeping stitches within the 1/4" (6 mm) seam allowance (B). Repeat with other side.



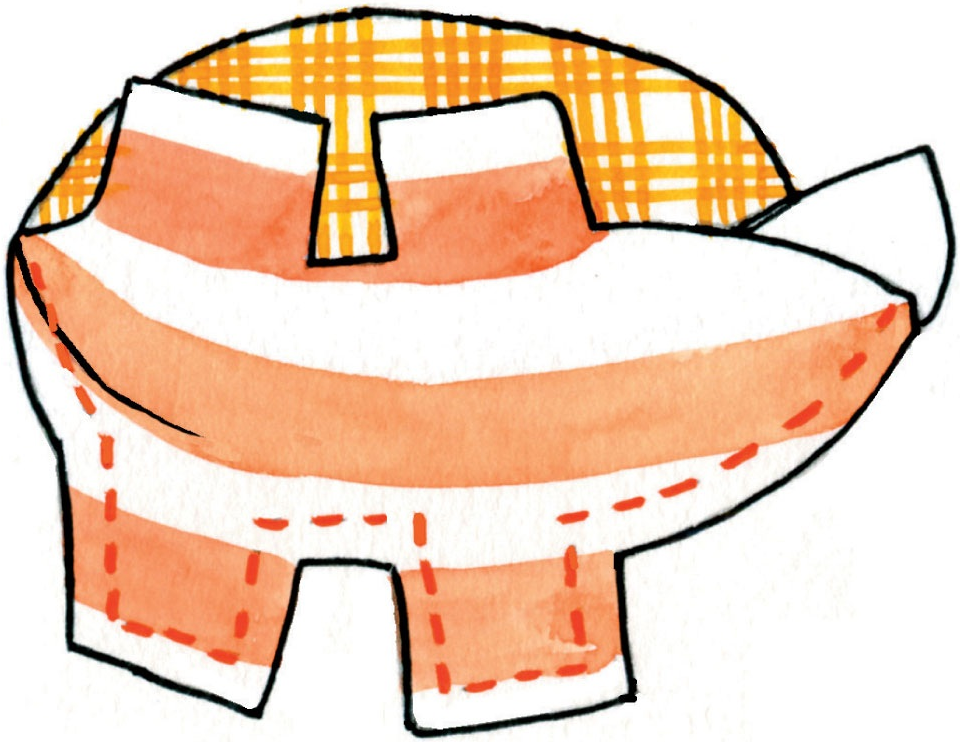
(B) *Sew folded ear to side piece.*

3. Align the bottom edge of one back piece with the top edge of one side piece; stitch together between the two notches (C). Repeat with the other side.



(C) *Stitch back piece to side piece.*

4. Align one side of the underside with one side piece. Stitch from the rear to the front (D). Repeat with the other side.

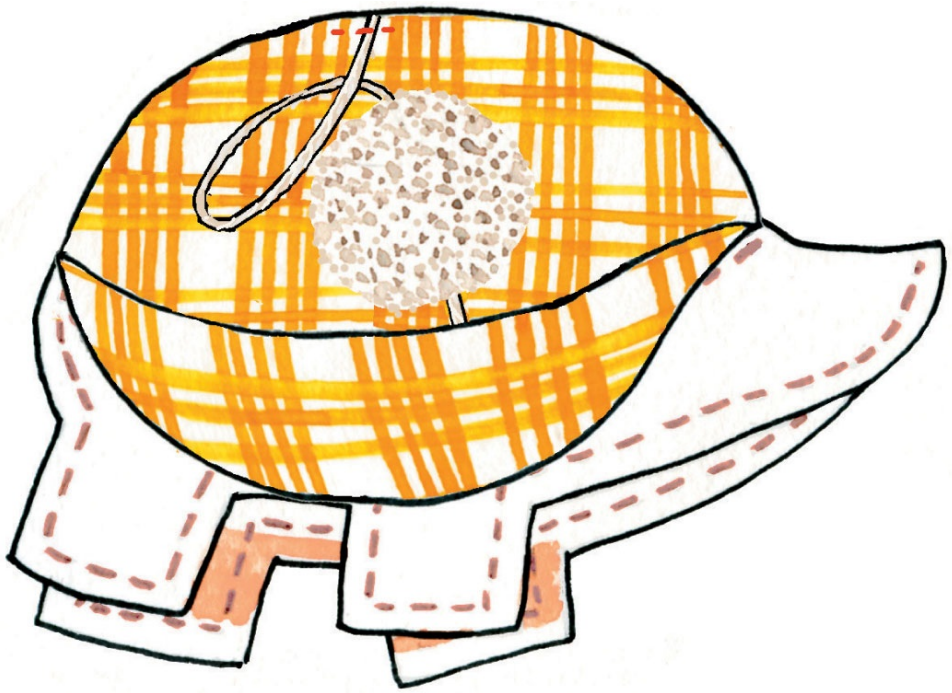


(D) *Stitch underside to one side.*

5. Make the hanging strings for the hedgehogs. Use a 1-3/4" (4.5 cm) pom-pom maker and follow the instructions to make three pom-poms (E), or use a strip of cardboard and follow the tip instructions in "Project 1: Bunny." Tie each pom-pom with a strand of yarn at least 18" (45.5 cm) long. Trim one strand of yarn of each pom-pom to the following lengths: 4" (10 cm) below the pom-pom, 7" (18 cm) below the pom-pom, and 9" (23 cm) below the pom-pom. To make the pompoms hang at the same level, trim all three remaining strands of yarn 2" (5 cm) above the pom-pom.

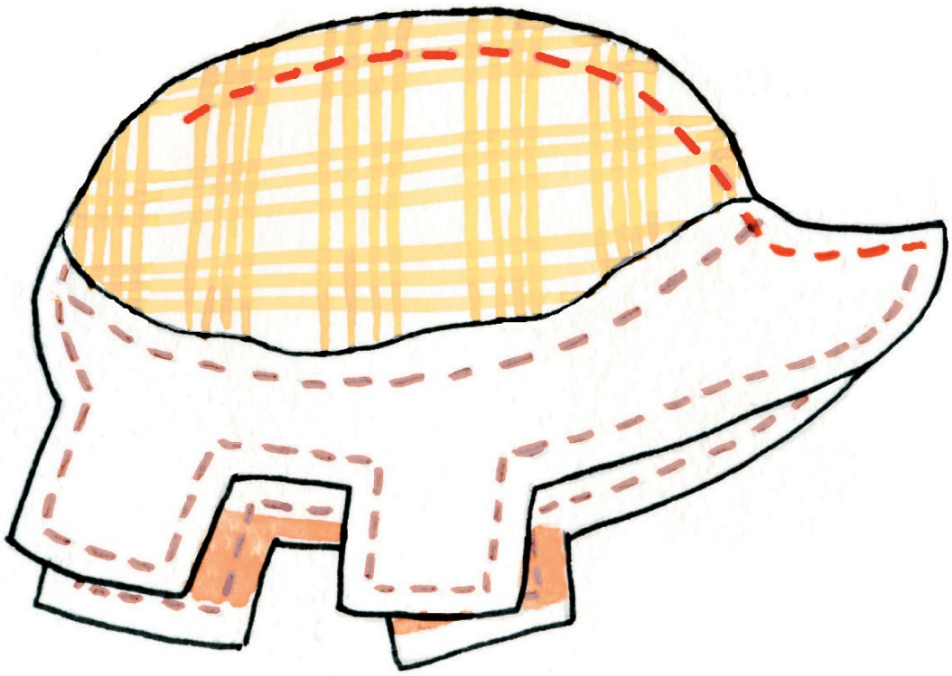
(E) *Make a pom-pom.*

6. Stitch the end of the longer pom-pom strand to the top center of one back piece on the fabric right side. Tuck the rest of the strand and pom-pom inside the hedgehog (F).



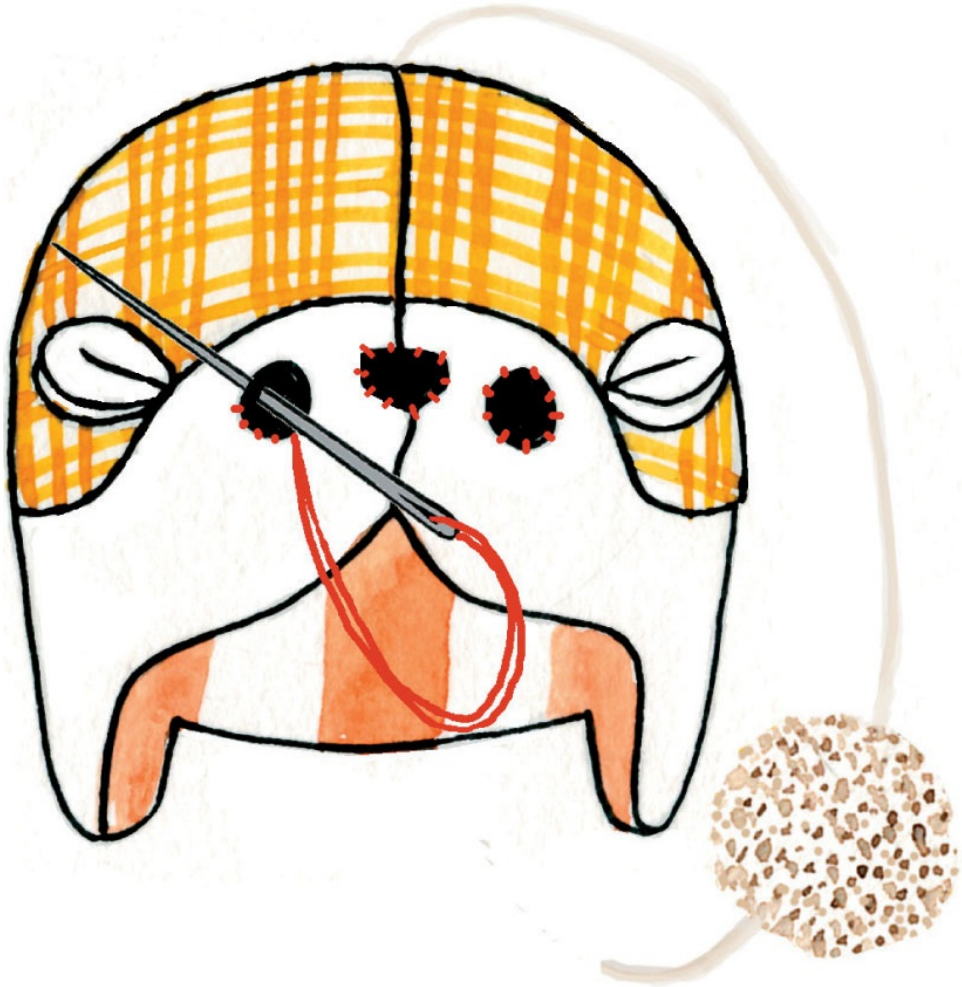
(F) *Attach pom-pom to back.*

7. Stitch the side pieces together along the top of the head, and then stitch the back pieces together, leaving a 1" (2.5 cm) opening at the rear end and taking care not to catch the pom-pom yarn in the stitching (G). Turn right side out through the opening. Stuff the hedgehog, and hand stitch the opening closed.



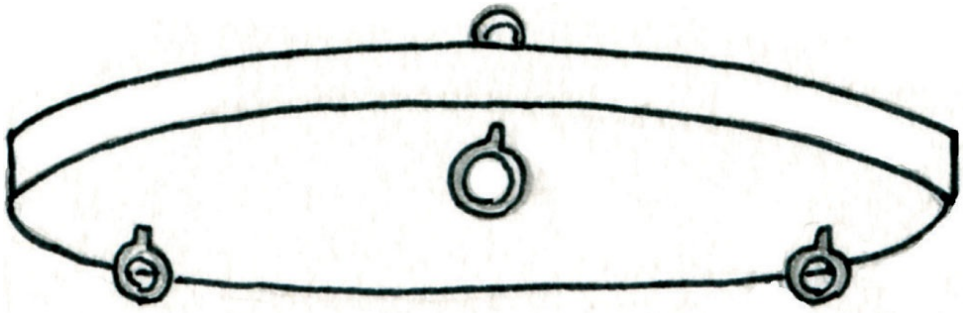
(G) *Stitch along sides and back; leave opening at the rear.*

8. For the eyes and nose, cut three 1/4" (6 mm) squares from black felt. With a small pair of scissors, round the corners on two of the squares to create the eyes; the third square will be the nose. Hand stitch the felt eyes and nose to the hedgehog's face (H). Repeat the above steps to make two more hedgehogs.

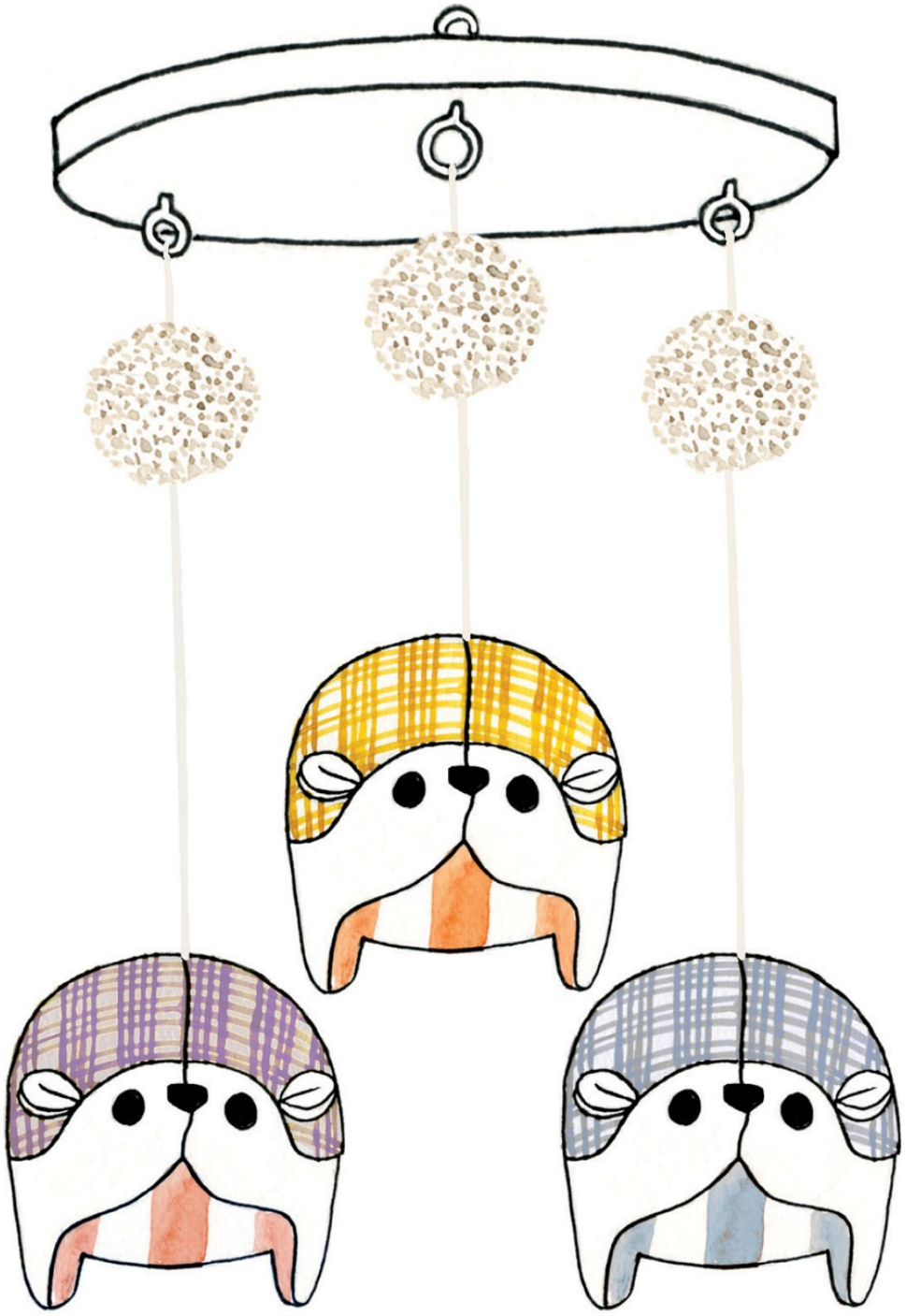


(H) *Hand stitch nose and eyes.*

9. Mark the center of the wooden disk on both sides. On the bottom of the disk, use the protractor to make three evenly spaced marks 120 degrees apart on the perimeter, each 1" (2.5 cm) from the edge. Use the hammer and nail to start a small hole for each screw eye. Screw in the screw eyes by hand. Turn the disk over and screw the last screw eye into the center of the disk (I). Paint the disk and all four screw eyes white. Tie the remaining end of each pom-pom strand to a screw eye (J).



(I) *Twist screw eyes into wooden disk.*



(J) *Tie strands to screw eyes.*

project 13

penguin holiday ornament

This ornament is based on a baby emperor penguin. A quick image search of the species will reveal the cutest little creature you've ever seen.

Size of ornament shown: 3-1/4" (8.5 cm) tall
Use patterns on page 125 at 200%.

MATERIALS

corduroy fabric

black, white, and gray felt for face, beak, wings, and feet

plaid flannel for scarf (optional)

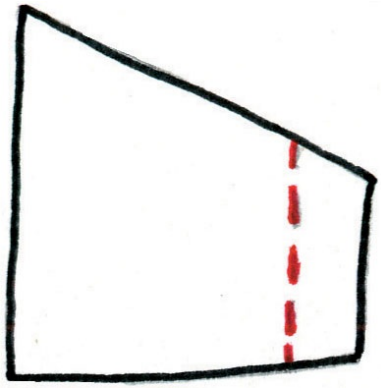
all-purpose sewing thread

black all-purpose thread for eyes

yarn

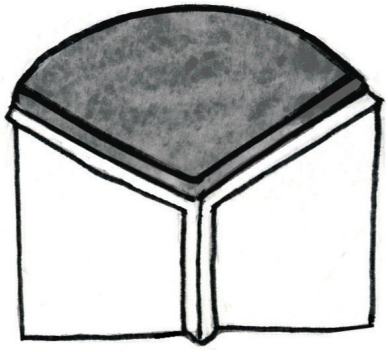
fiberfill

1. Stitch the lower face pieces together along the shortest straight edge (A).



(A) *Sew lower face pieces together.*

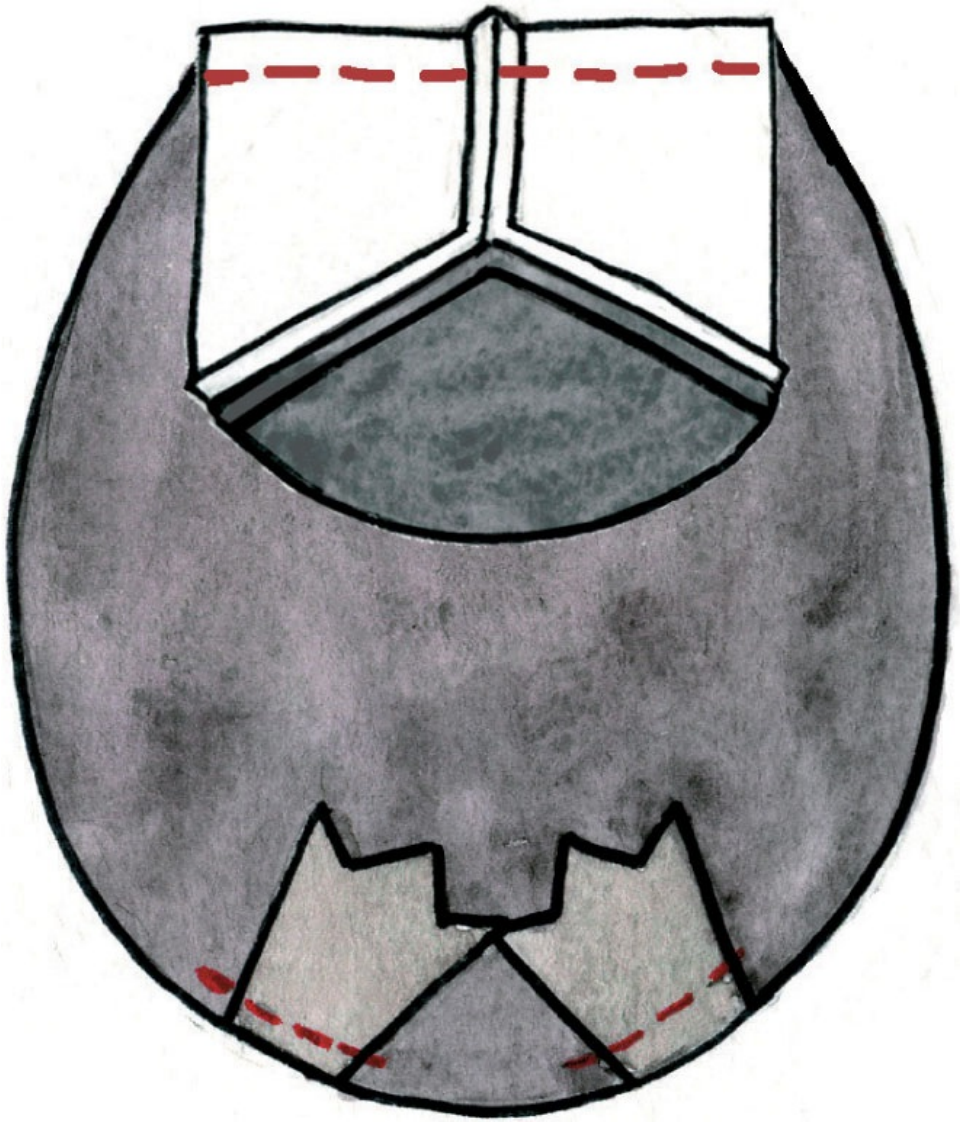
2. Stitch the upper face piece to the assembled lower face pieces, one side at a time (B).



(B) *Sew lower face to upper face.*

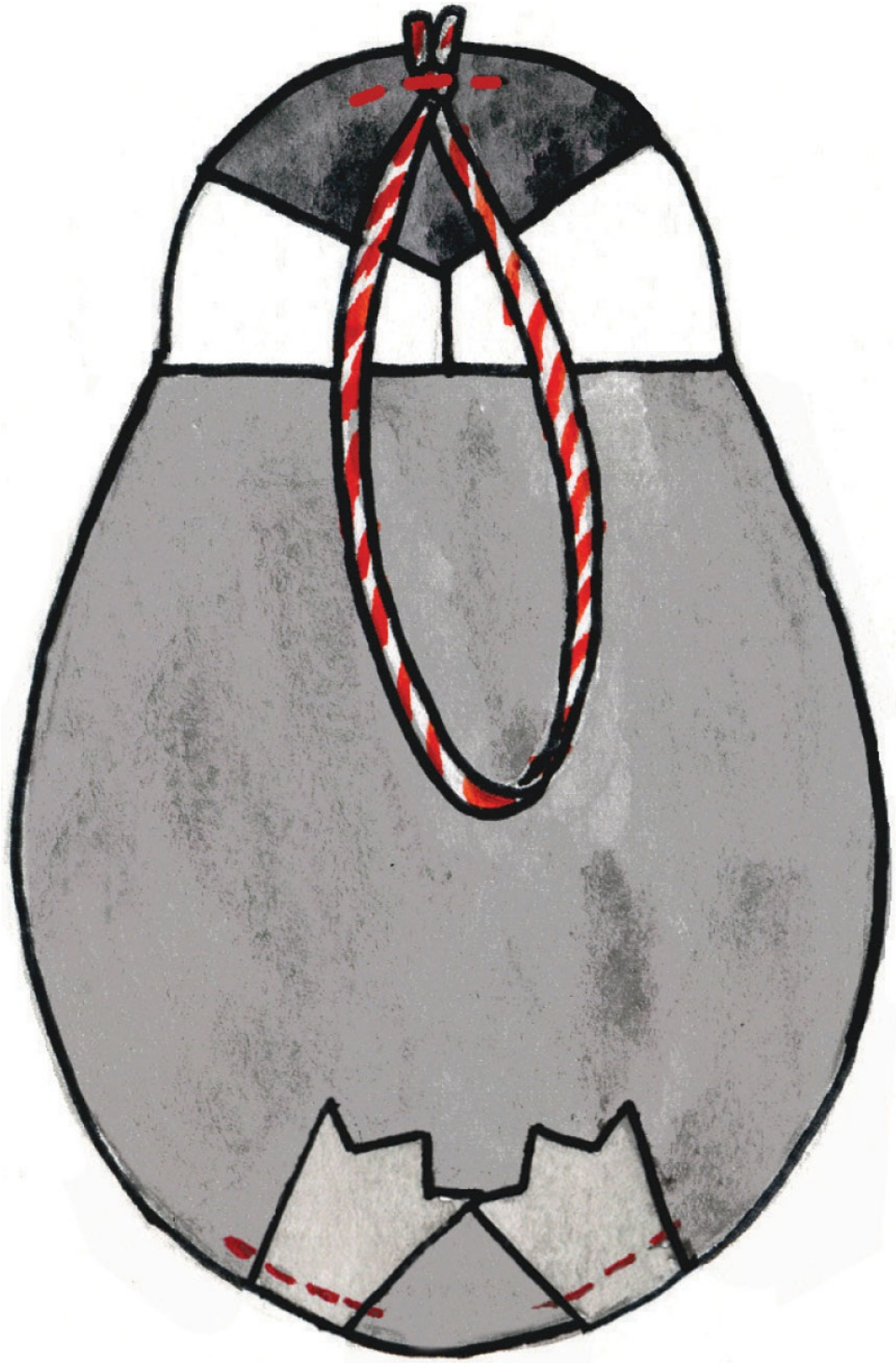
When stitching the upper face piece to the lower face, stop the stitching at the seam of the lower face. To do this easily, line up the raw edges of the pieces, pin, and then stitch with the added piece underneath so you can see the previous seam. This leaves the seam allowances loose, so the pieces will lie flat when opened up.

3. Stitch the assembled face pieces to the straight edge of the front piece. Sew both feet to the front piece at the notches shown on the pattern (C).



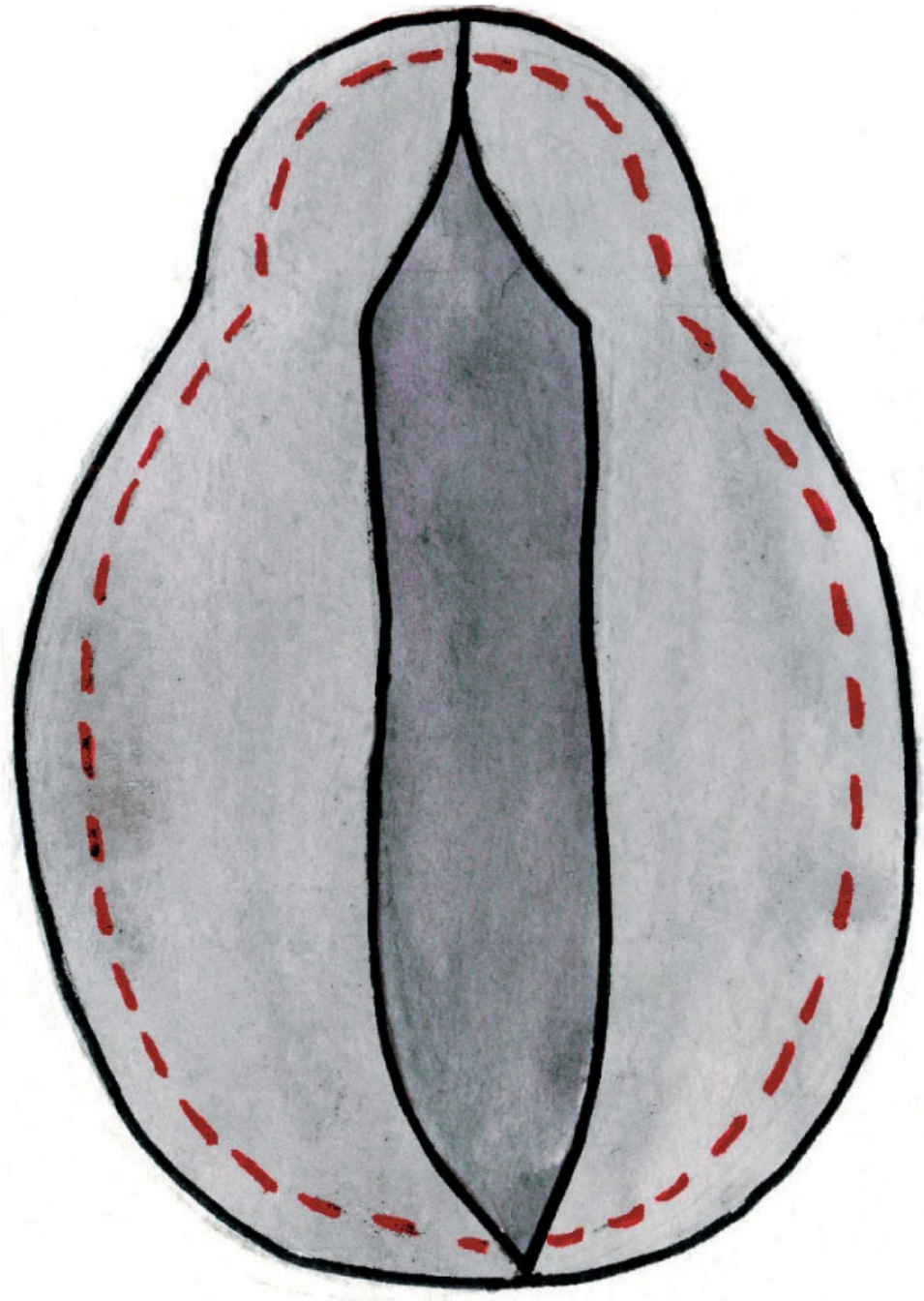
(C) *Stitch assembled face and feet to front.*

4. Cut an 8" (20.5 cm) length of yarn. Brings the ends together and tie in an overhand knot. Stitch to the right side of the upper face panel, directly above the lower face seam line (D).



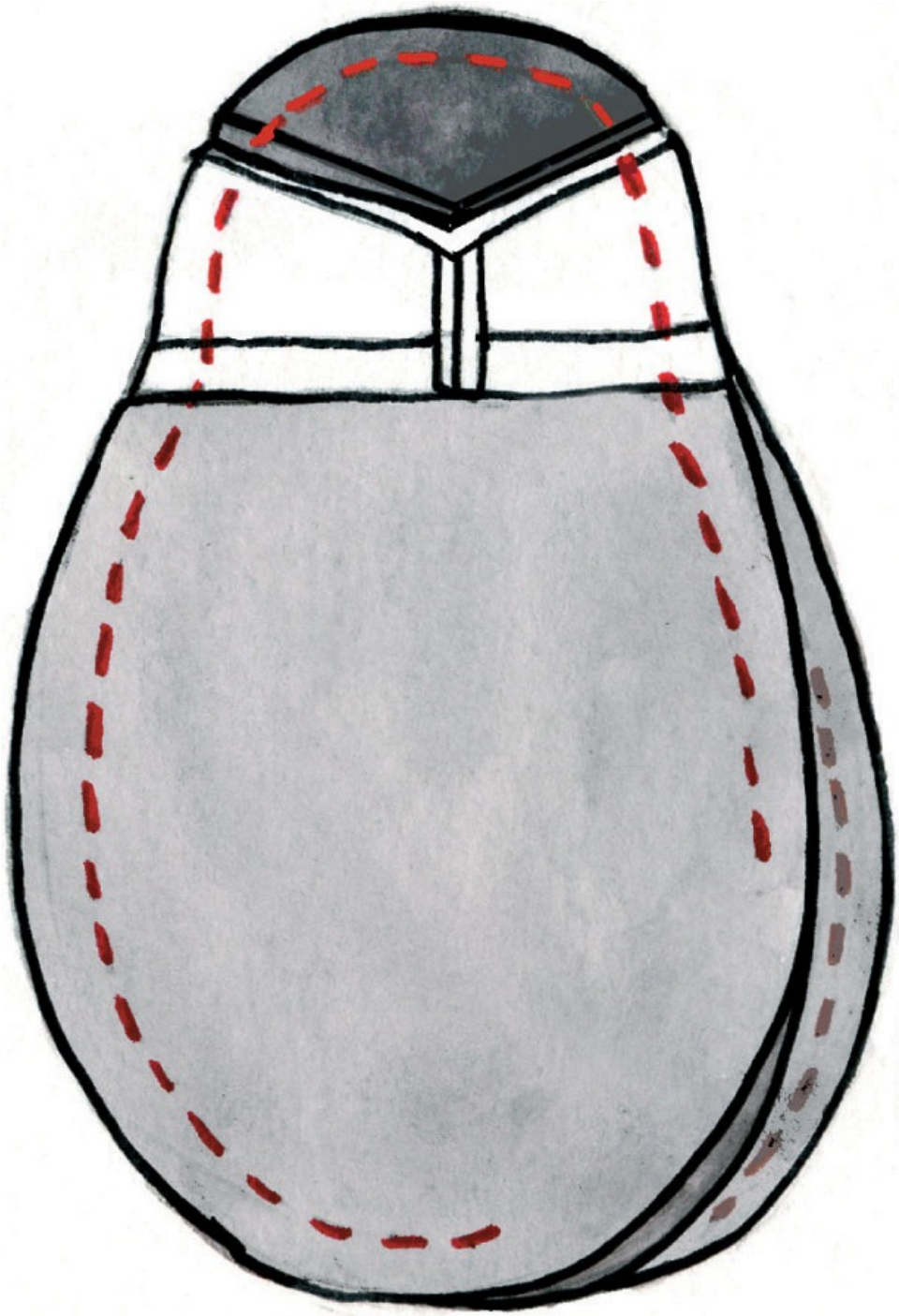
(D) *Attach hanging loop to front.*

5. Align a side piece with the back piece, matching the circles marked on the pattern; stitch. Repeat with the other side (E).



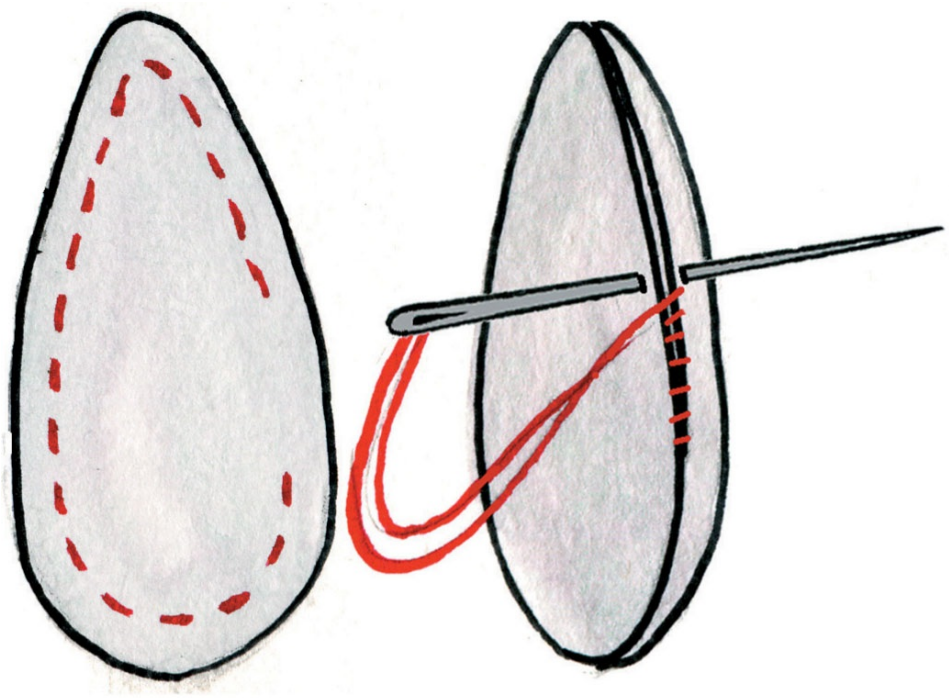
(E) *Stitch sides to ornament back.*

6. Stitch the front of the penguin to the side pieces in the same manner, but leave a 1" (2.5 cm) opening along one side (F). Turn right side out through the opening and stuff; hand stitch the opening closed.



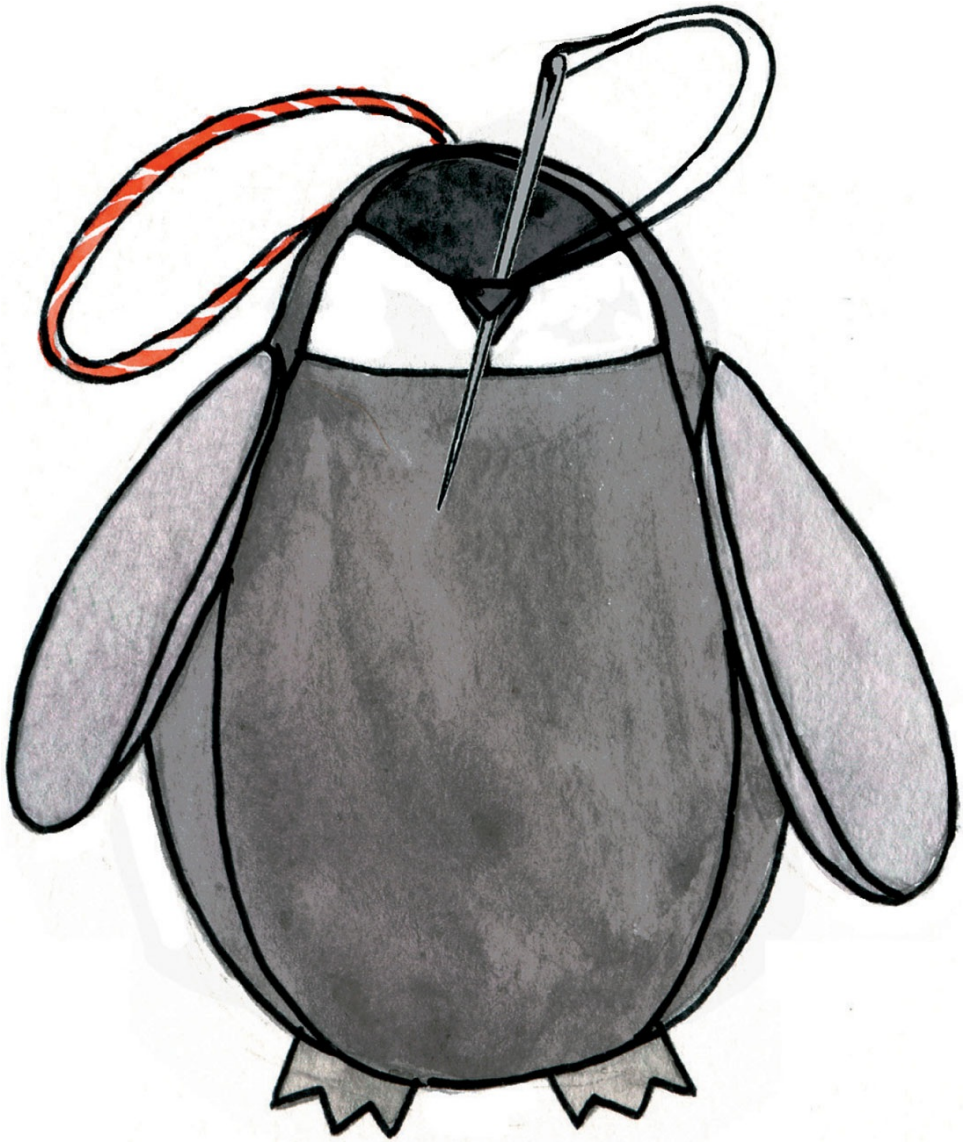
(F) *Stitch front to sides; leave opening.*

7. Sew two wing pieces together, leaving a 3/4" (2 cm) opening. Turn right side out through the opening; hand stitch the opening closed (G). Repeat to sew the other wing.



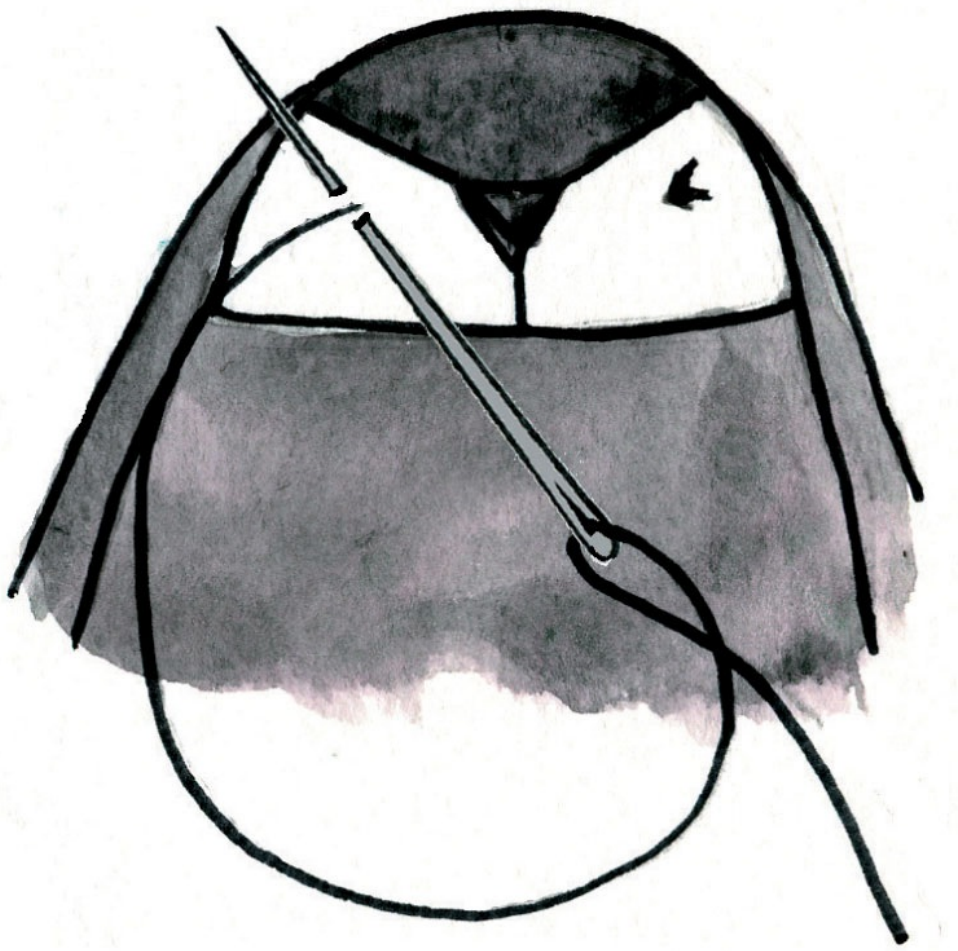
(G) *Sew wing pieces together and hand stitch closed.*

8. Anchor all-purpose thread at the vertical center of one side piece. With the narrow end of one wing aligned with the lower face seam, stitch the wing to the side. Push the needle through the body to the other side, and stitch the other wing in place. Then push the needle back through the body and exit at the point where the lower face and upper face panels meet. Fold the beak piece in half and insert the needle through the fold. Make several stitches through the beak and face to secure the beak in place (H).



(H) *Attach wings and beak.*

9. Embroider the eyes. Knot the end of all-purpose thread and insert the needle under the beak to hide the knot. Exit on one side of the lower face where you want an eye. Make tiny stitches in the form of an asterisk (l); push needle back to the opposite side. Make the same tiny stitches to form the other eye. Push the needle out under the beak and tie off so the knot will be hidden.



(l) *Embroider eyes.*

10. Make the scarf by cutting a 3/4" × 9-1/2" (2 × 24 cm) rectangular strip of flannel. Pull off loose warp and weft threads to create a fringe along the edges. Tie the scarf around the penguin's neck to keep him cozy.

project 14

prize-winning pony

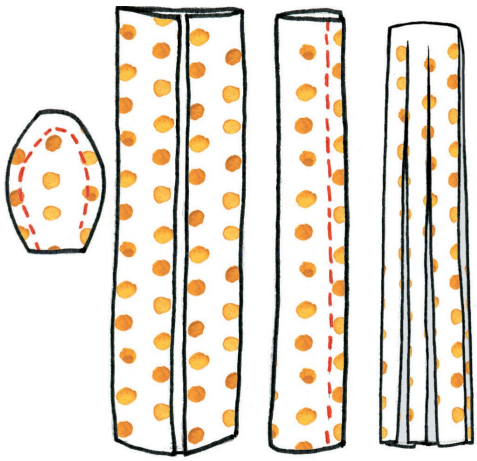
Of course, a horse this cute deserves a ribbon! This is a fun project for using old buttons and trims.

Size of pony shown: 5" (12 .5 cm) tall
Use patterns on page 126 at 200%.

MATERIALS

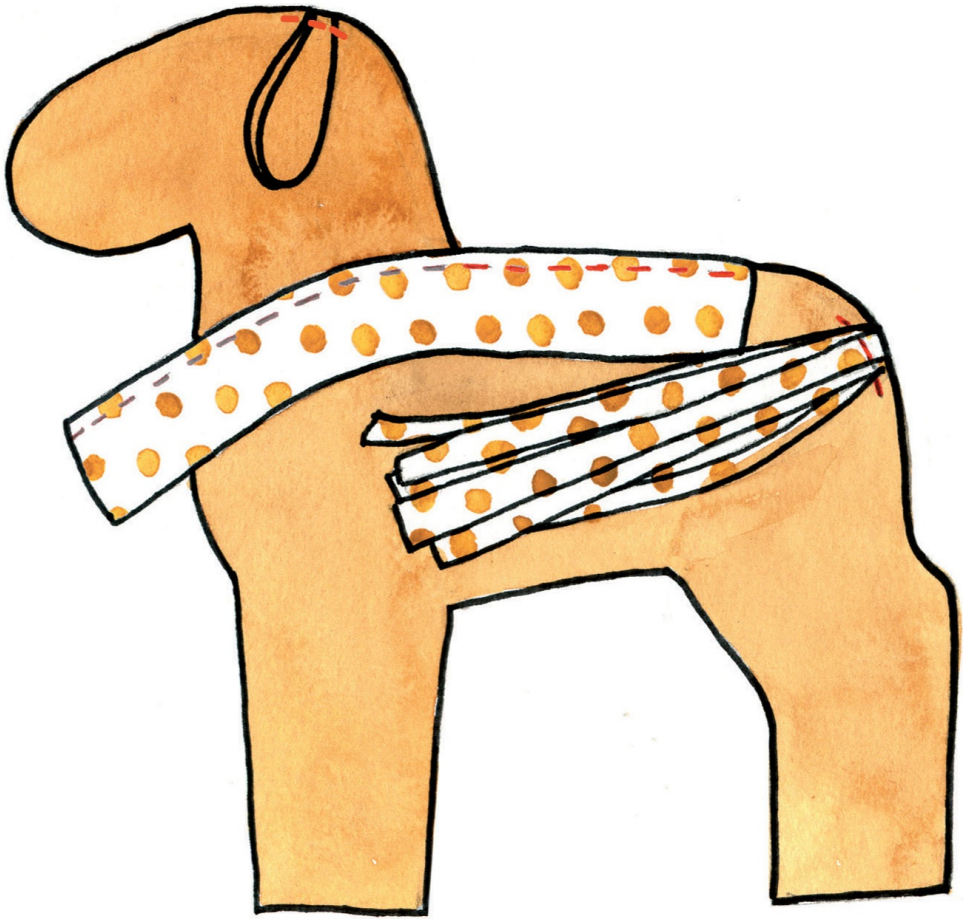
- medium-weight cotton fabrics
- all-purpose sewing thread
- black embroidery floss
- ribbon
- button
- fiberfill

1. Stitch two ear pieces together, leaving the straight edge and about 1/4" (6 mm) on one side unsewn. Repeat to sew the other ear; turn right side out. For the mane, cut a 2" × 3-1/2" (5 × 9 cm) rectangle of fabric. Fold in the sides to meet in the center, and then fold in half, enclosing the edges; stitch closed. For the tail, use the same fabric as the mane, and cut three 1" × 3" (2.5 × 7.5 cm) strips. Fold all three strips in half lengthwise and make two 2-3/4" (7 cm) cuts, leaving the sections attached at one end (A).



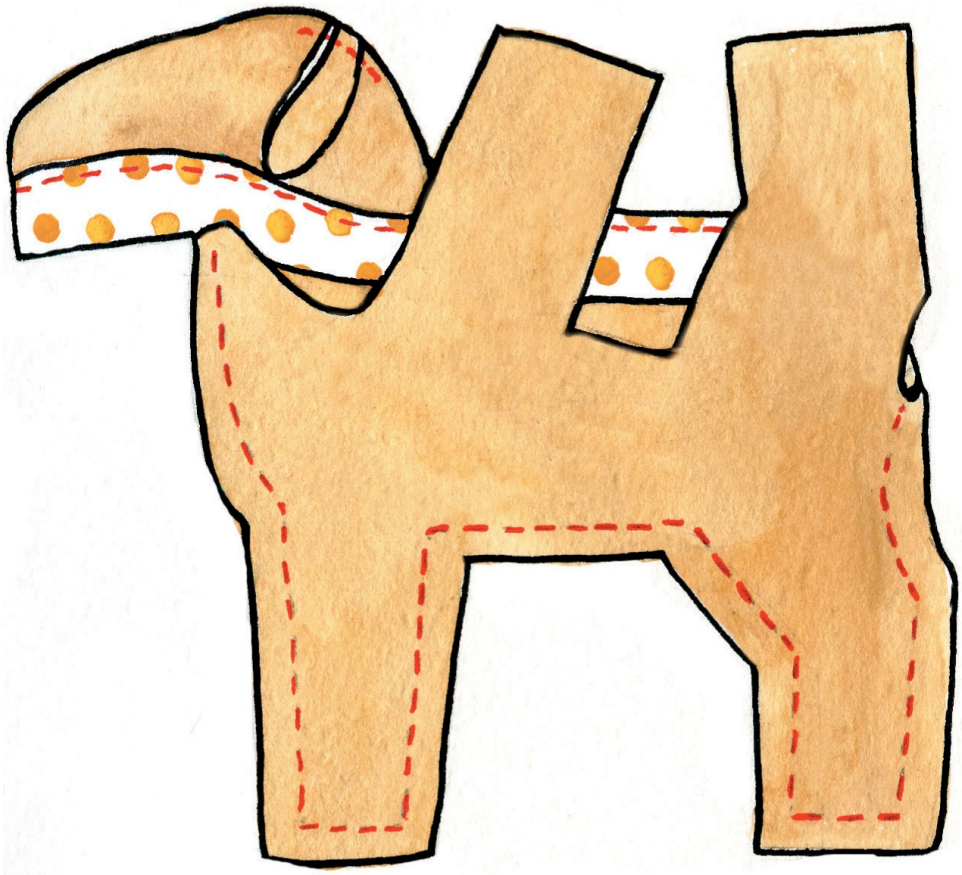
(A) *Sew ear pieces together. Cut strips for mane and tail; fold and sew mane.*

2. Fold one ear in half, and with the folded edge toward the back, stitch the ear to the fabric right side of one side piece at the notch. Be sure to keep stitching within the 1/4" (6 mm) seam allowance. Repeat with the other side. Center the folded end of the tail strips at the diamond notch indicated on the pattern; stitch in place. With the stitched edge of the mane aligned with the back edge, stitch the mane along the back, starting at the notch and ending at the neck (B).



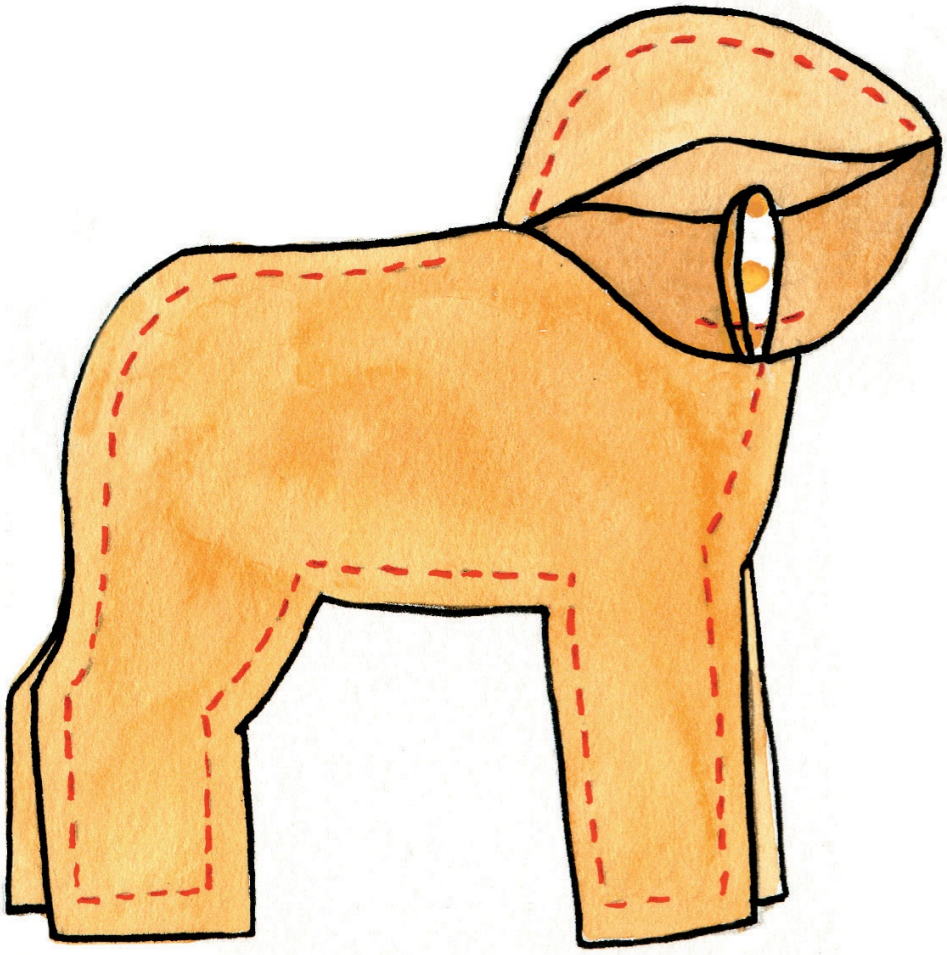
(B) *Sew mane, ear, and tail to side piece.*

3. Align the underside with one side and stitch from the circle at the neck to the rear diamond (C). Repeat with the other side.



(C) *Stitch underside to side.*

4. Stitch the sides together along the back from rear diamond to about 3/4" (2 cm) from neck. Stitch along the chin from the circle on the chest to the notch at the nose. Stitch half of the head panel to one side from the nose notch to the back of the head (D). Repeat with the other side, but this time stop just after the ear. Use this opening to turn the pony right side out. Stuff and hand stitch the opening closed.



(D) *Attach head panel.*

5. Hand sew the rest of the mane up the neck and between the ears (E).

(E) *Hand stitch rest of mane to pony.*

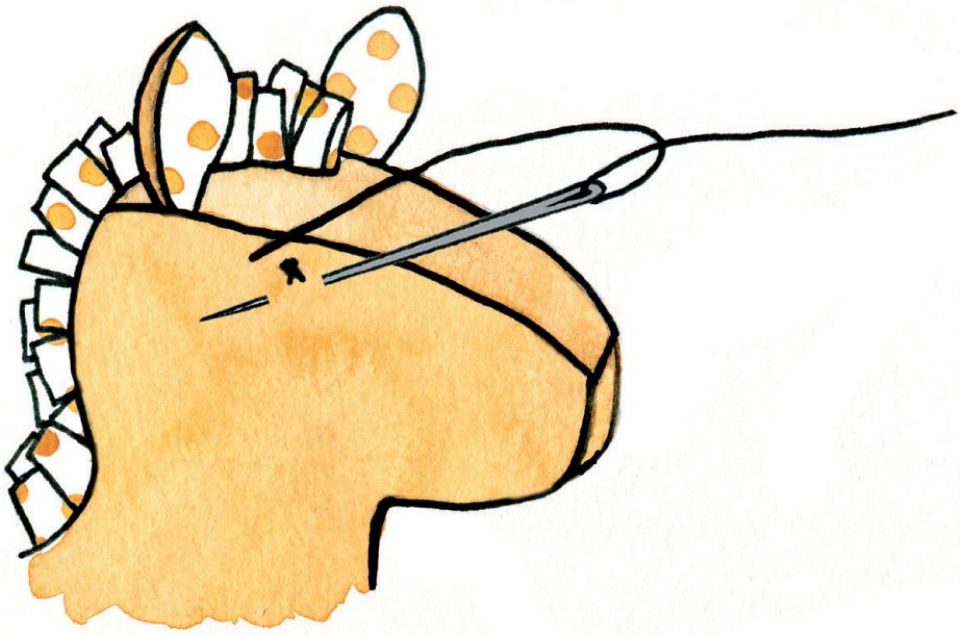
6. Cut along the fold of the mane (F).

(F) *Cut mane along fold.*

7. Make small snips into the mane about 1/4" (6 mm) apart (G).

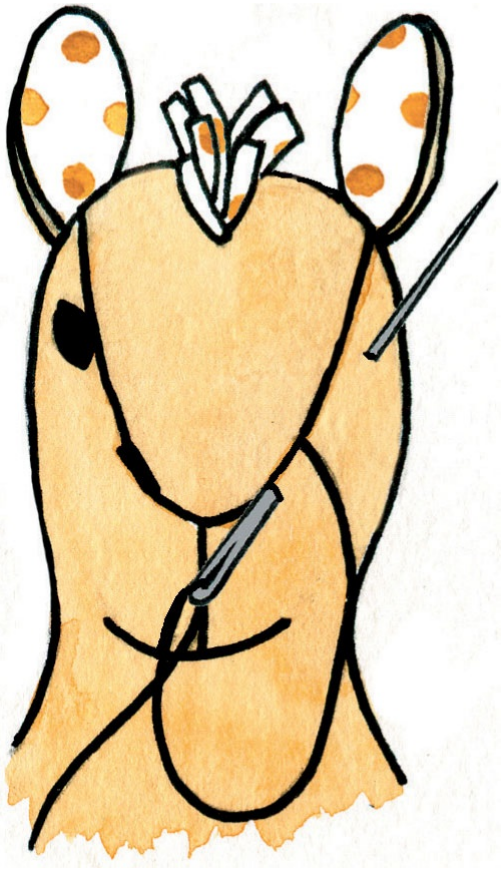
(G) *Make small snips into mane.*

8. Embroider the eyes using three strands of embroidery floss. Anchor a knot just below the seam of the head panel and side. Make a small 1/4" (6 mm) stitch parallel to the seam (H). Continue to make small stitches in the form of an elongated asterisk. Make another small stitch at the nose to create one nostril.



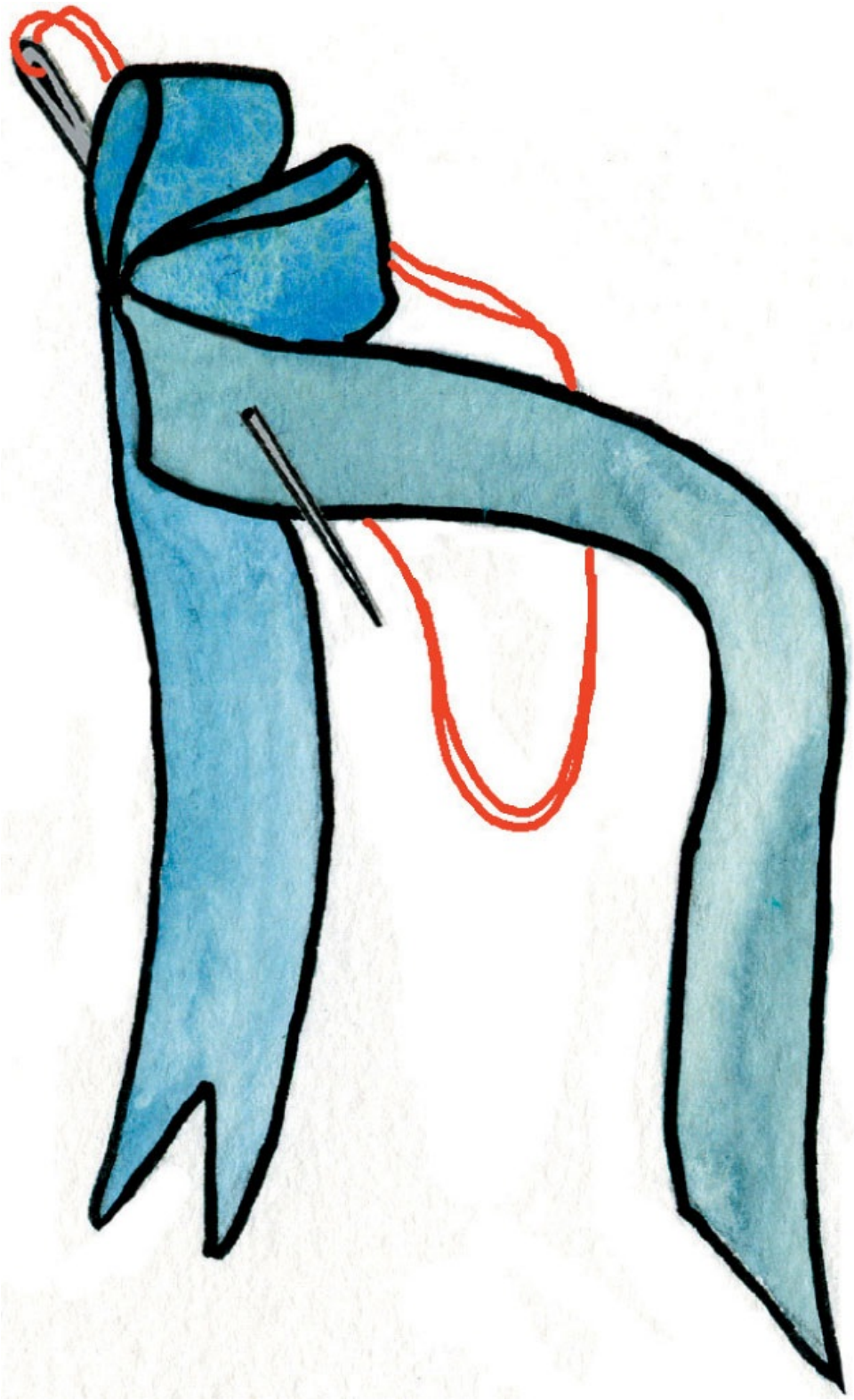
(H) *Embroider eye.*

9. Push the needle directly opposite the first nostril to create the second nostril. Push the needle out opposite the first eye and embroider the second eye (I).



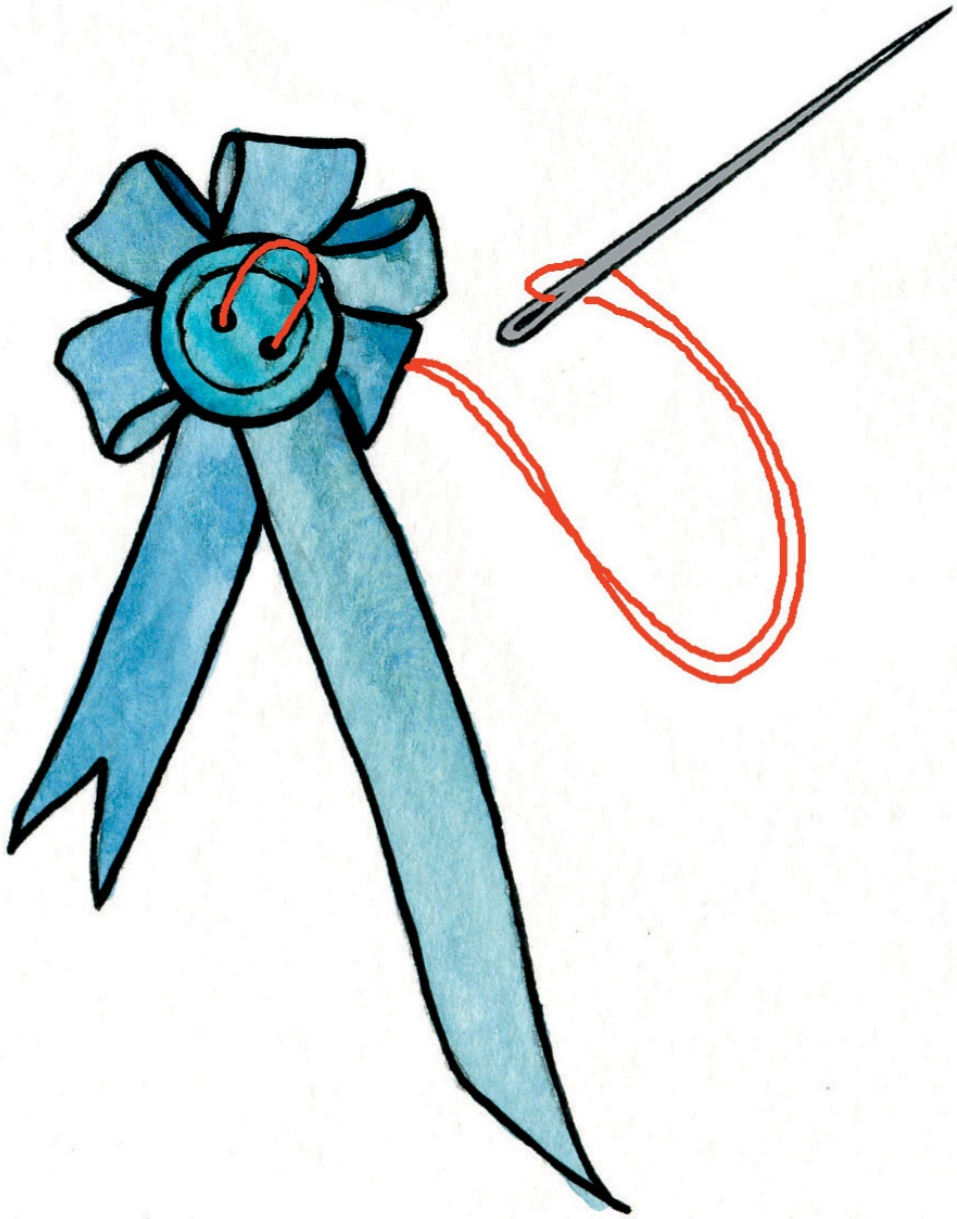
(I) *Embroider nostrils and other eye.*

10. Make the ribbon. Thread a needle with all-purpose thread, and partially insert the needle about 2" (5 cm) from the end of a 9" (23 cm) length of ribbon. Fold the ribbon over to create a 1/2" (1.3 cm) loop, and push the loop onto the needle (J). Keep making loops and placing them on the needle until you have five loops. Make several stitches through the center to hold the loops in place.



(J) *Gather ribbon on needle.*

11. Attach the button, and hand stitch the ribbon to the front of the pony (K).



(K) *Attach button and ribbon to pony.*

project 15

fox

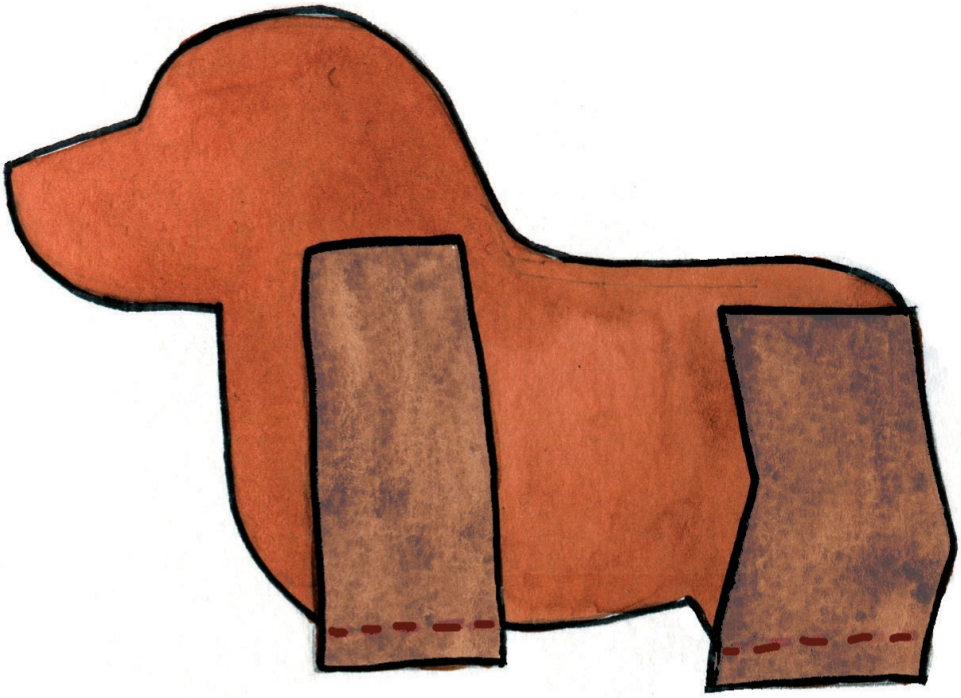
Here is a handsome forest-dwelling fellow! Choose a soft, fluffy fabric for the ruff and tip of the tail.

Size of fox shown: 5" (12 .5 cm) tall
Use patterns on page 126 at 200%.

MATERIALS

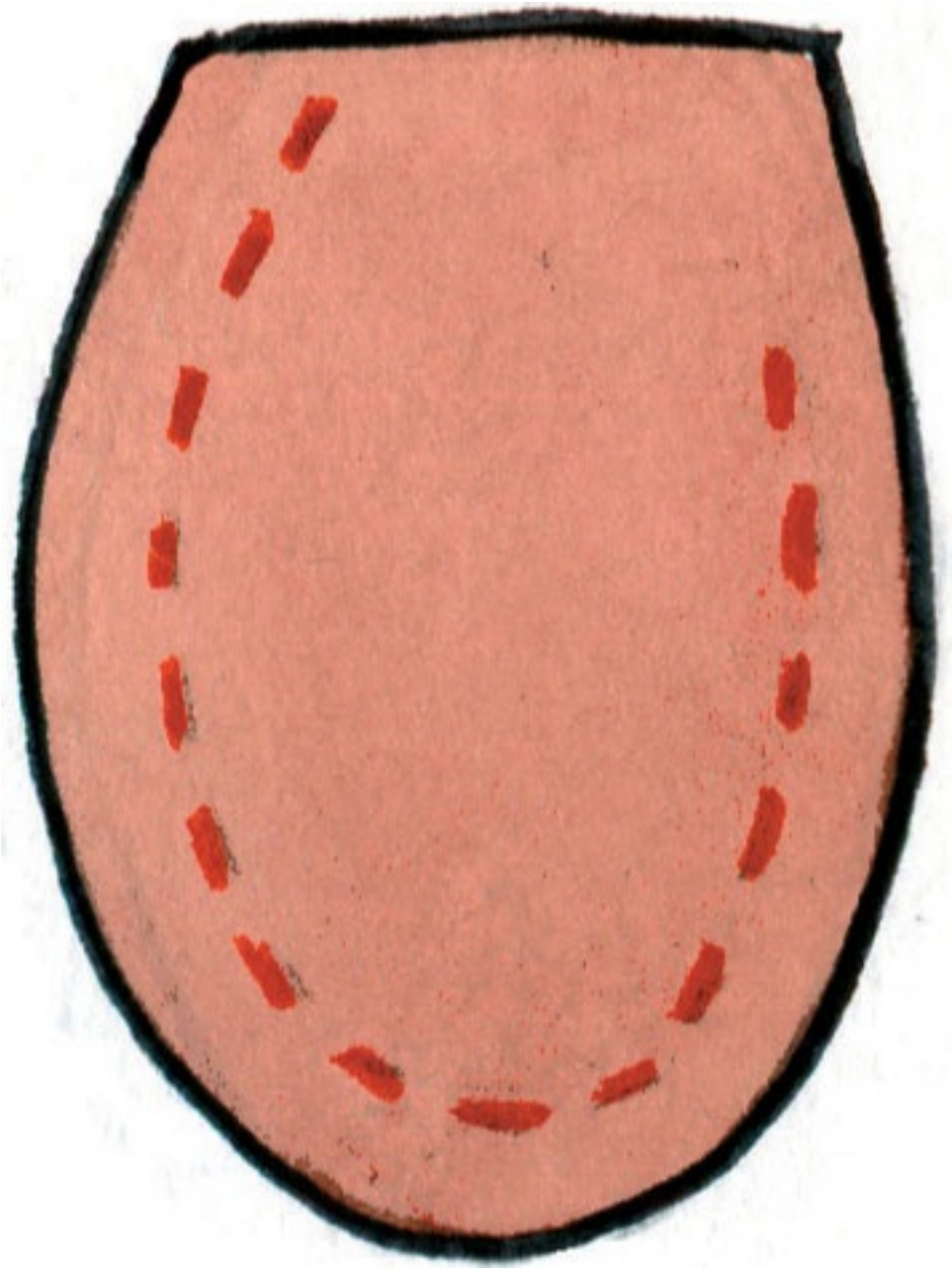
- medium-weight cotton fabrics
- wide-wale corduroy for ruff and tail tip
- black felt for nose
- all-purpose sewing thread
- black all-purpose thread for eyes
- fiberfill

1. Sew one front leg and one back leg to each side piece (A).



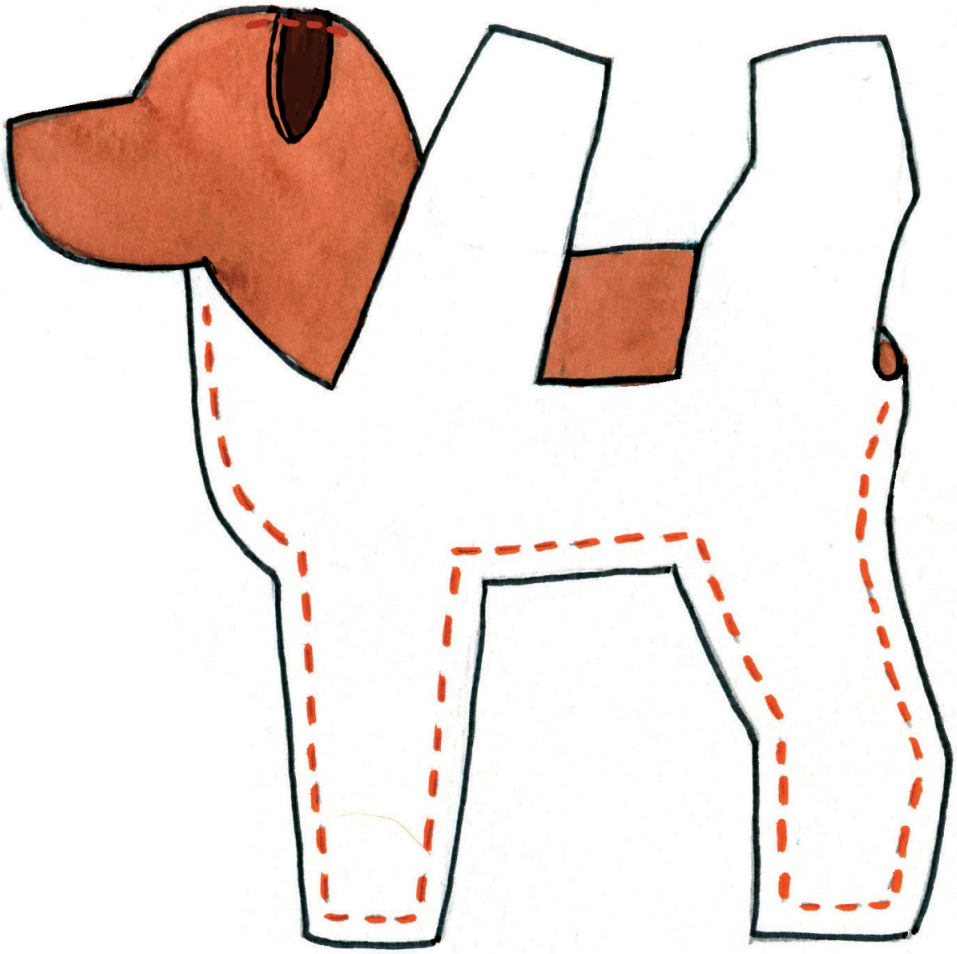
(A) *Sew front and rear legs to side pieces.*

2. Sew two ear pieces together, leaving the straight edge and about 1/4" (6 mm) of one side unsewn (B). Use this opening to turn right side out. Repeat for the other ear.



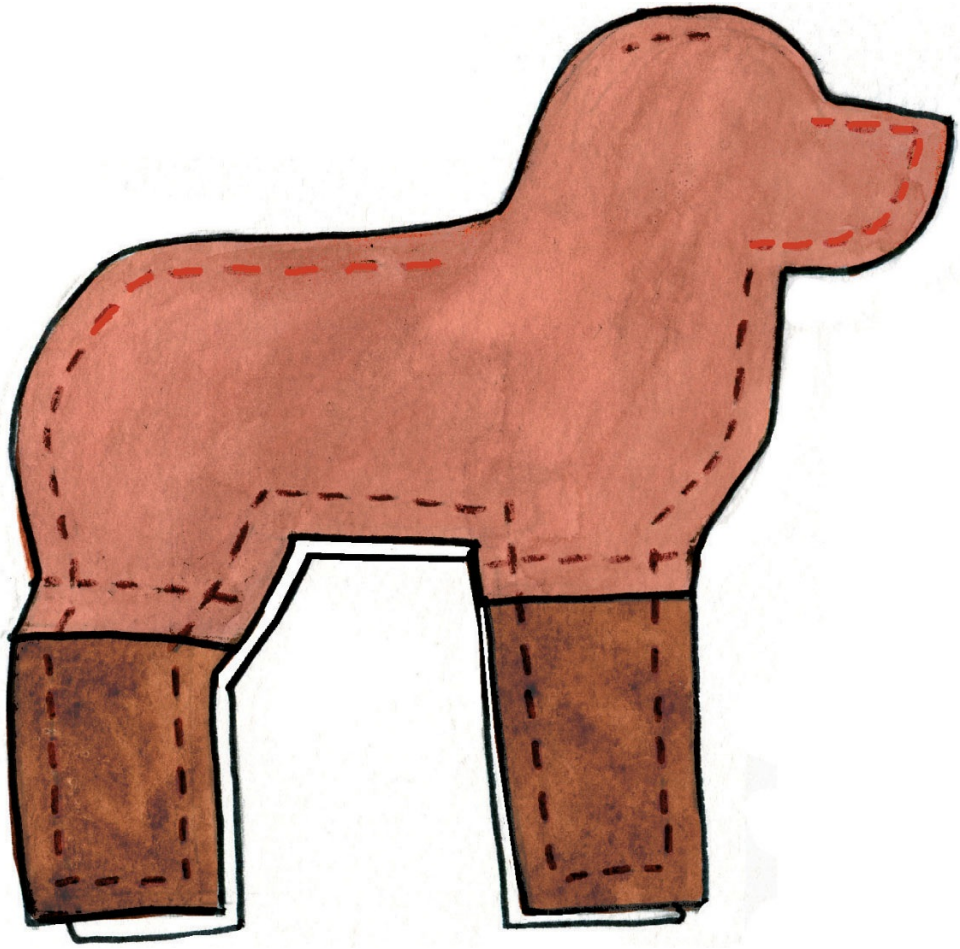
(B) *Sew ear pieces together.*

3. Fold the ear in half, center it at the notch on the side piece. Make sure the ear is on the fabric right side and the fold is toward the back and stitch in place. Be sure to keep stitching within the 1/4" (6 mm) seam allowance. Align the underside with an assembled side piece; stitch from the chest circle to the rear diamond (C). Repeat with the other side.



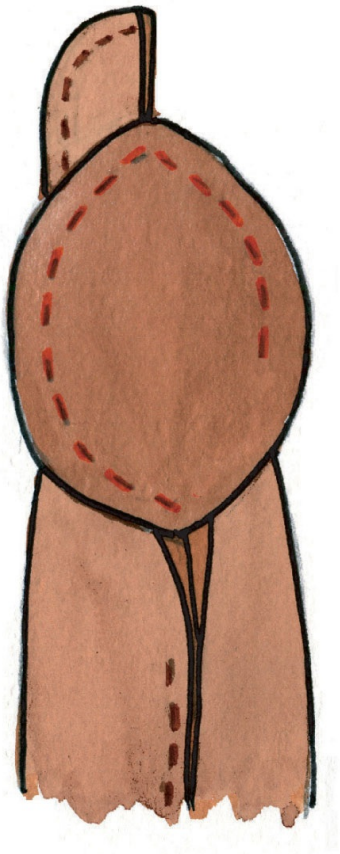
(C) *Stitch underside to side.*

4. Sew the sides together along the back, stopping about 1/2" (1.3 cm) shy of the neck. Stitch the sides together along the muzzle (D).



(D) *Stitch sides together along back and muzzle.*

5. Stitch one side of the head panel to one side piece from the muzzle to the back of the head. Repeat with the other side, but this time stop just after the ear (E). Use this opening to turn the fox right side out. Stuff, and then stitch the opening closed.

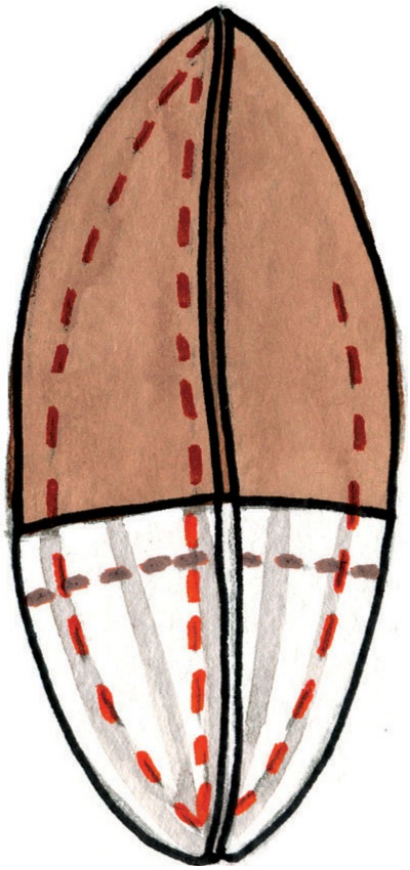


(E) *Attach head panel.*

6. With straight edges aligned, stitch one tail bottom piece to one tail top piece (F). Repeat with the other tail pieces.

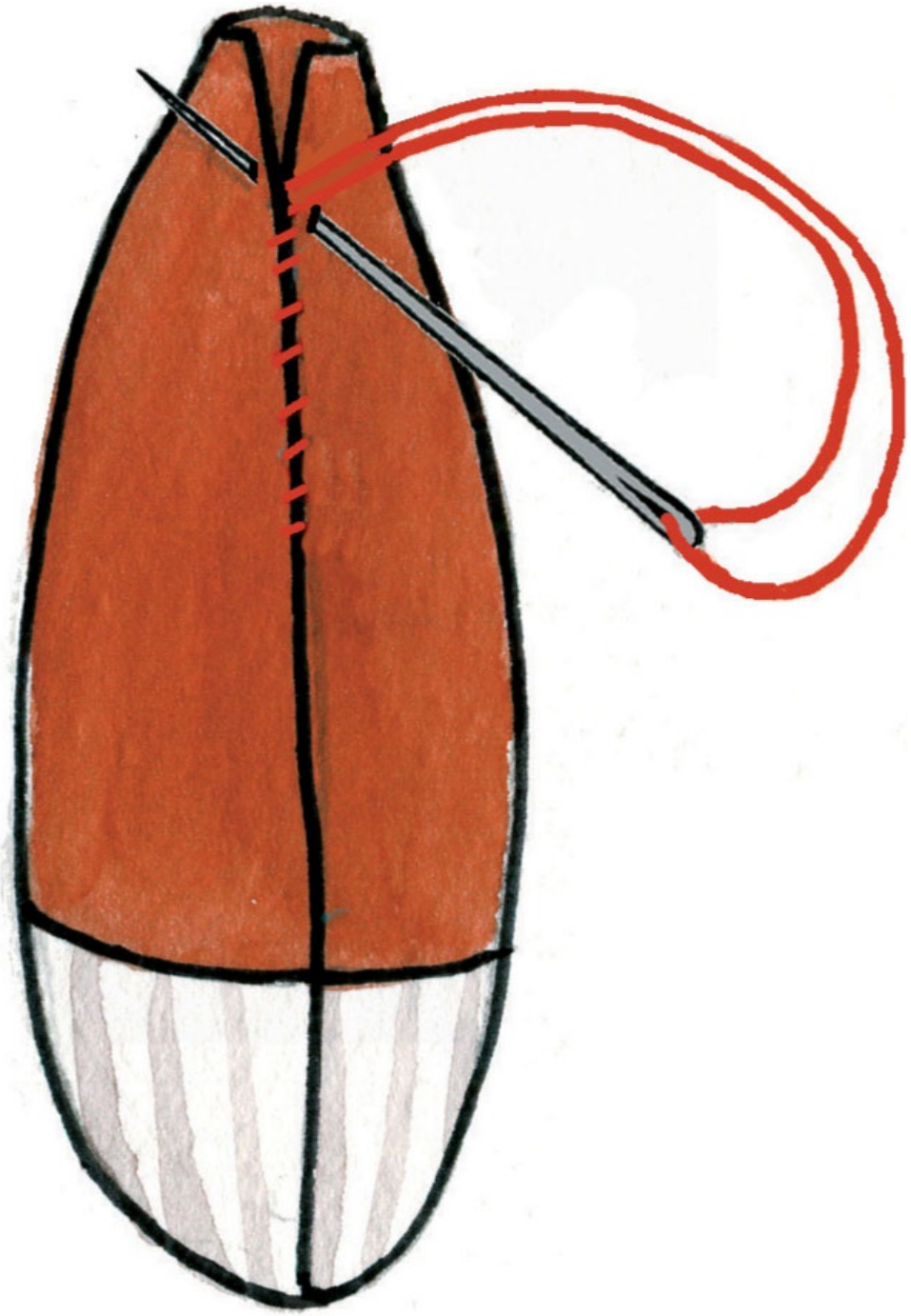
(F) *Sew tail top to tail bottom.*

7. Place two of the assembled tail pieces with right sides together; stitch along one side. Line up one side of the third tail piece with one of the pieces you just stitched, and sew the seam. Sew the remaining edges together, leaving 1" (2.5 cm) unsewn (G).



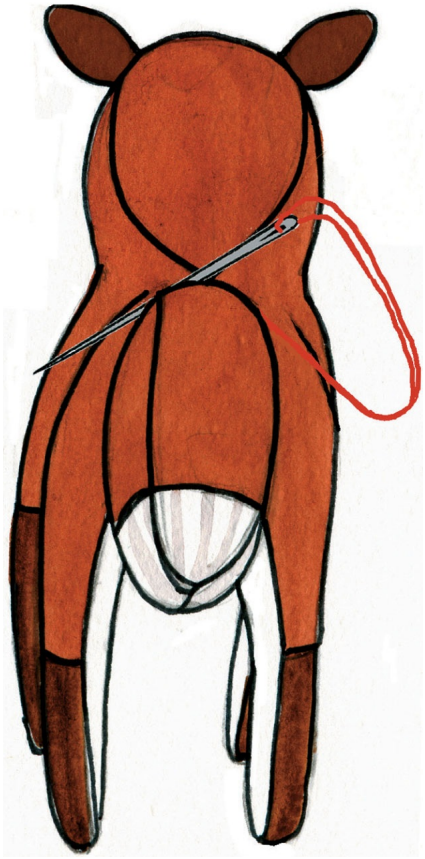
(G) *Sew tail pieces together.*

8. Turn the tail right side out through the opening and stuff. Hand stitch the opening closed (H).



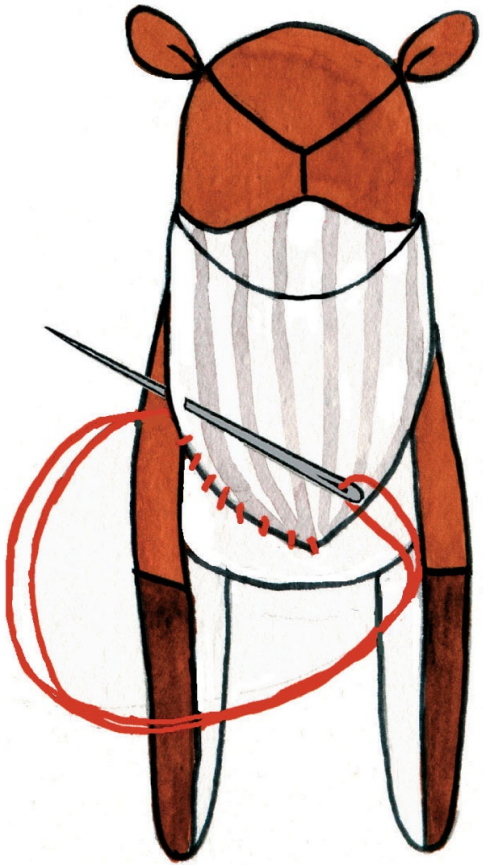
(H) *Stuff tail and stitch opening closed.*

9. Pin the tail to the fox's body and hand stitch in place (I).



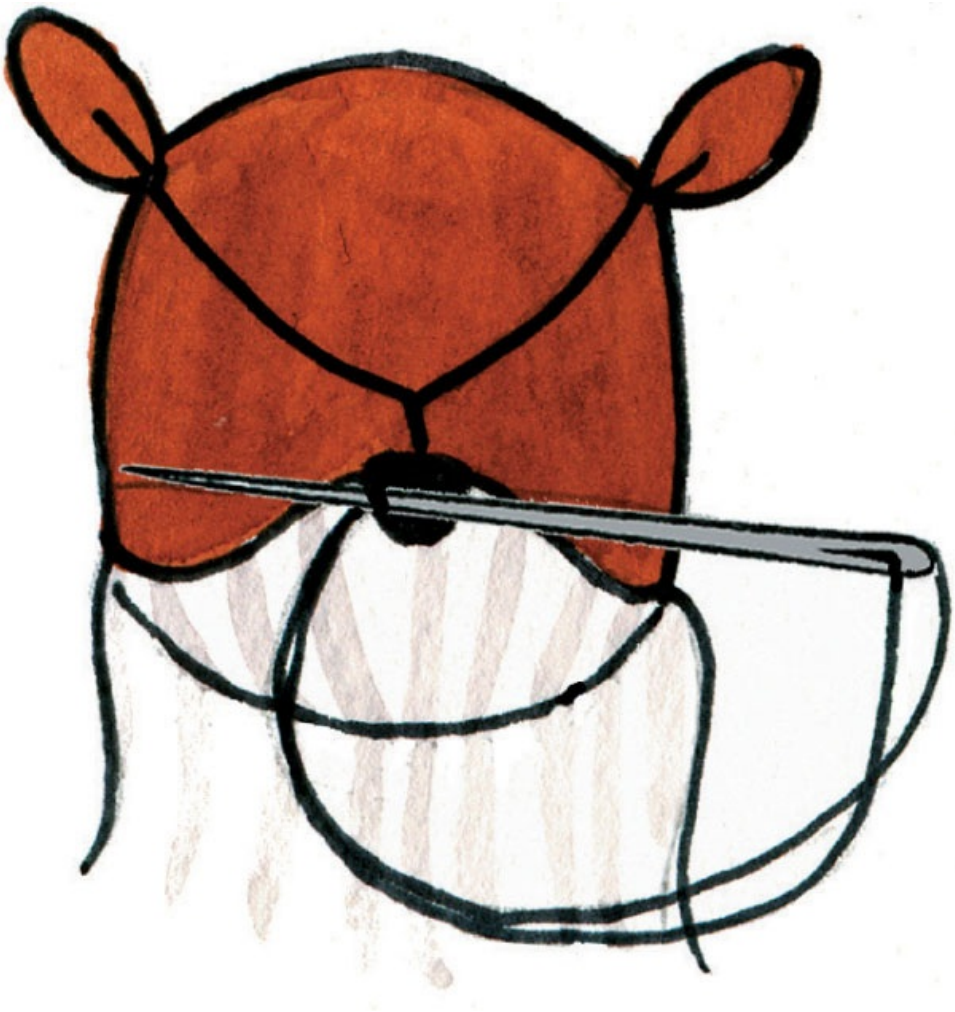
(I) *Attach tail.*

10. Pin the ruff piece to the fox's face and chest; hand stitch along the edges. If you are using corduroy, fold the raw edges under slightly as you sew (J).



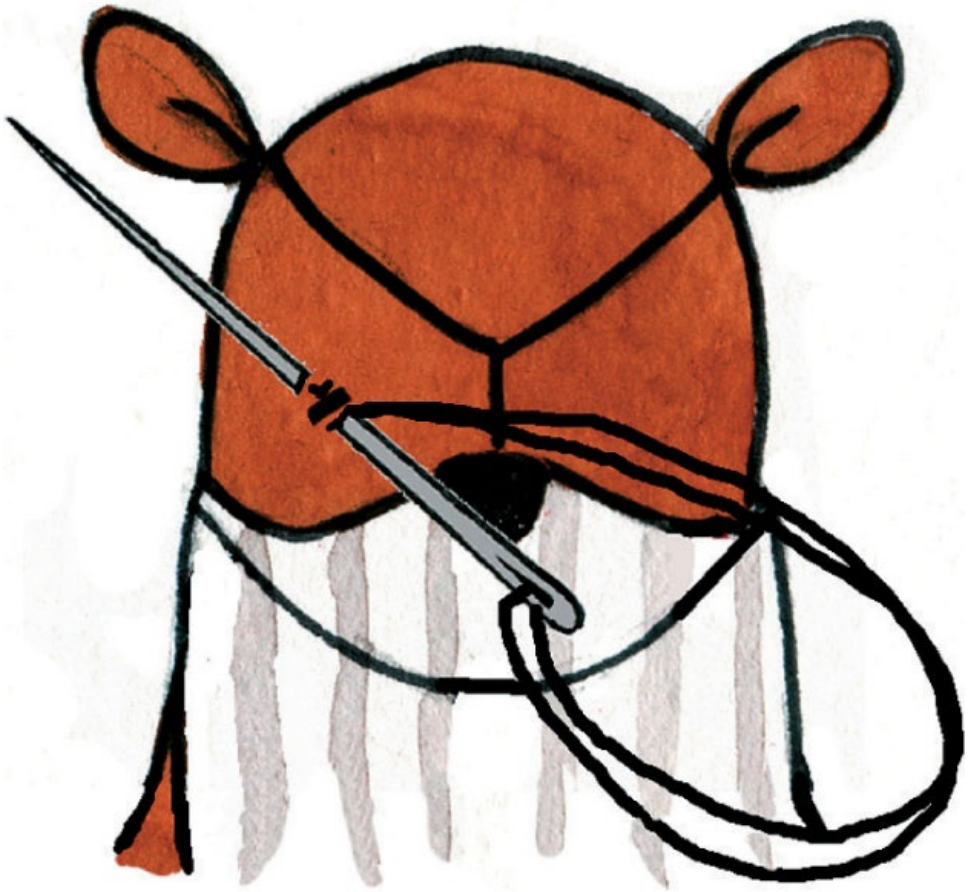
(J) *Attach ruff.*

11. Hand stitch the nose piece to the fox's face (K).



(K) *Sew on nose.*

12. Embroider the eye using black all-purpose thread. Make tiny stitches in the form of an asterisk, with the knot as the center. Push the needle directly across the face and repeat for the other eye (L).



(L) *Embroider eyes.*

project 16

mouse

Use a soft felt and bright pink cottons to make these adorable rodents.

Size of mouse shown: 2-1/4" (5.5 cm) tall
Use patterns on pages 126–127 at 200%.

MATERIALS

gray or tan felt for body

medium-weight cotton fabric for inside ears and tail

all-purpose sewing thread

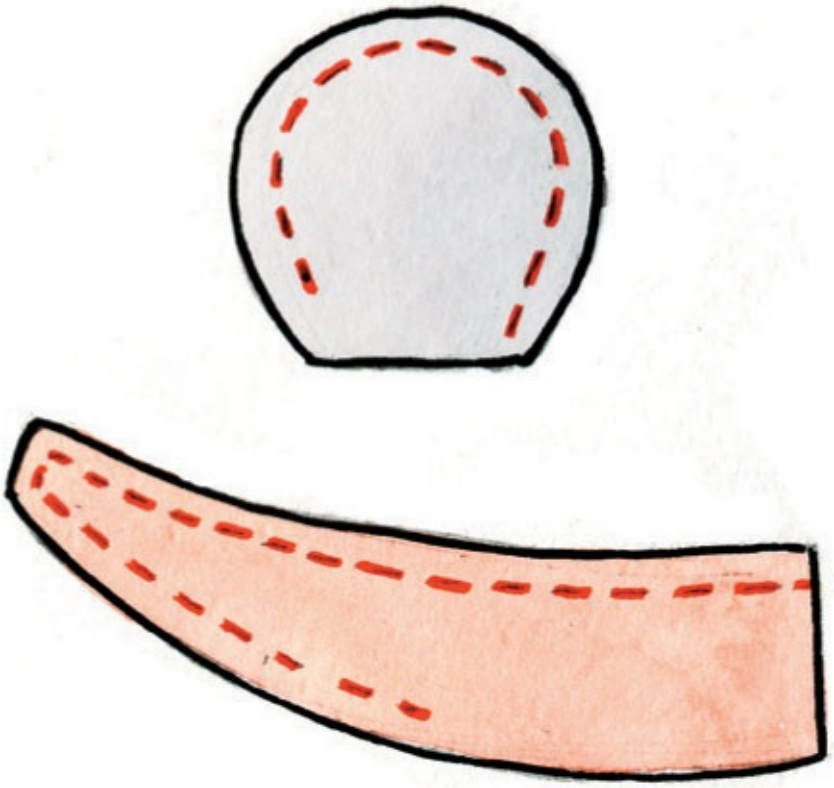
black all-purpose thread for eyes

white quilting thread

pink embroidery floss

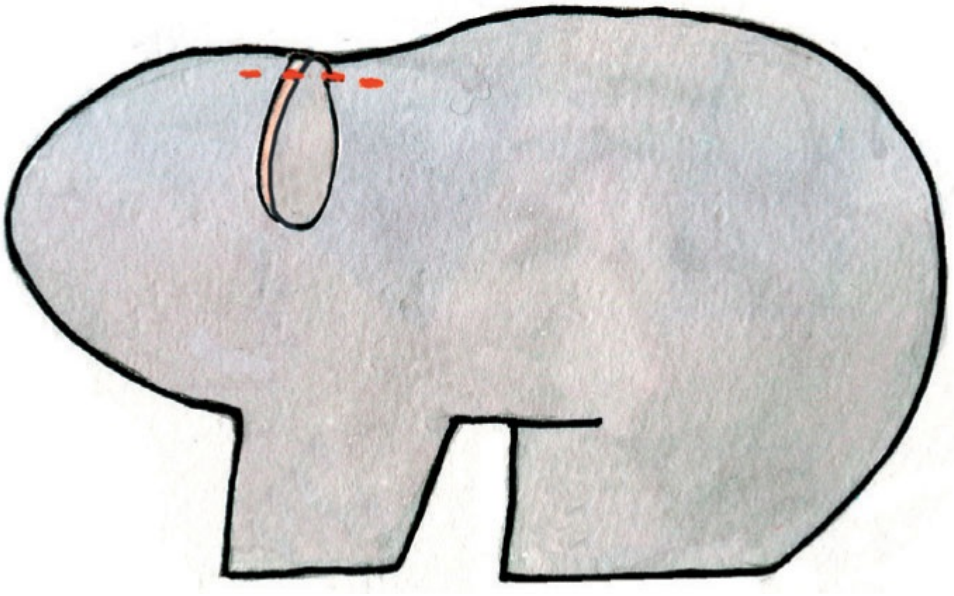
fiberfill

1. Stitch both tail pieces together, leaving the wider straight edge and 1-1/2" (4 cm) of the lower edge unsewn. Stitch two ear pieces together, leaving the straight edge and 1/4" (6 mm) of one side unsewn (A). Repeat to sew the other ear. Turn both ears and the tail right side out.



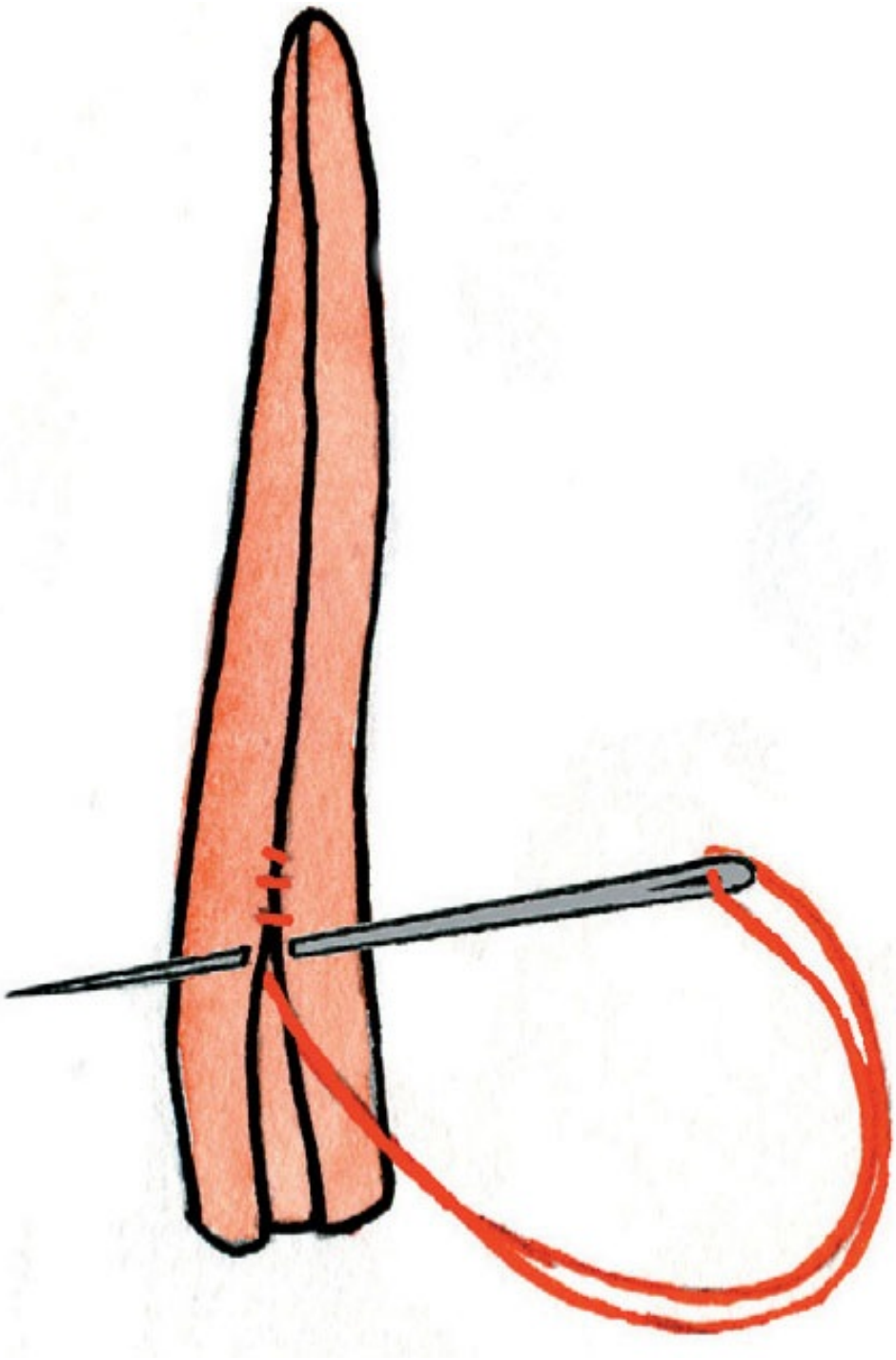
(A) *Sew ear pieces and tail pieces together.*

2. Fold the ear in half and stitch in place at the notch on one side piece, keeping the stitches within the 1/4" (6 mm) seam allowance (B). Make sure the ear is on the fabric right side of the side piece and the folded edge is toward the back. Repeat with the other side.



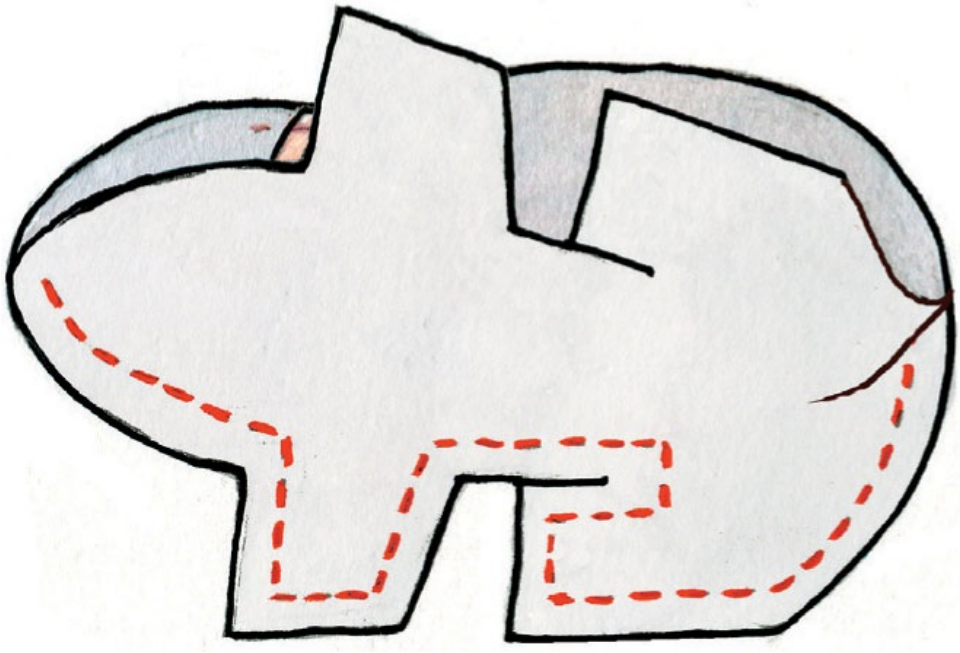
(B) *Stitch ear to side.*

3. Stuff the tail and hand stitch the opening closed (C).



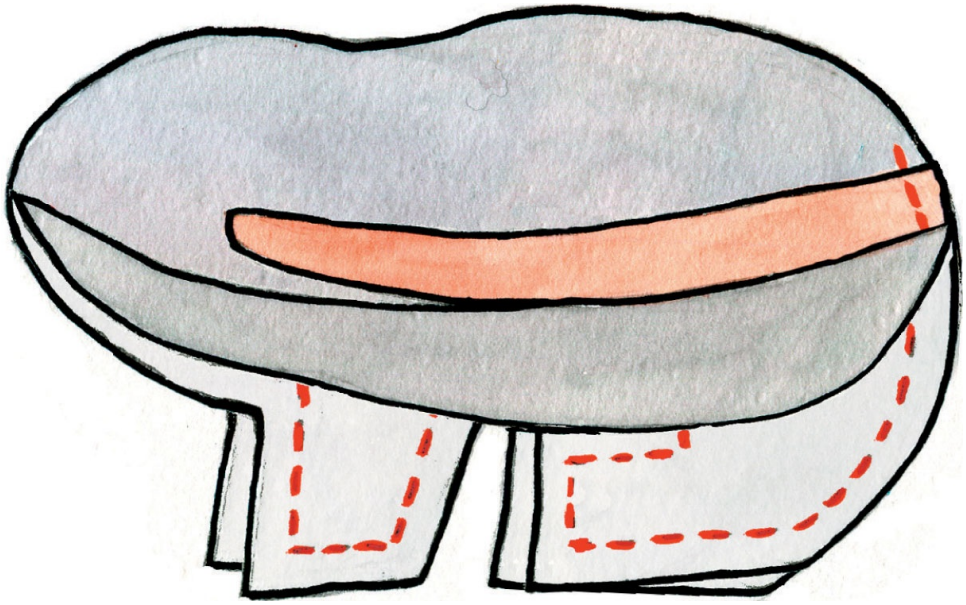
(C) *Stuff and hand stitch tail closed.*

4. Align the underside piece with one side piece; stitch from the circle mark to the rear diamond mark. Repeat with the other side (D).



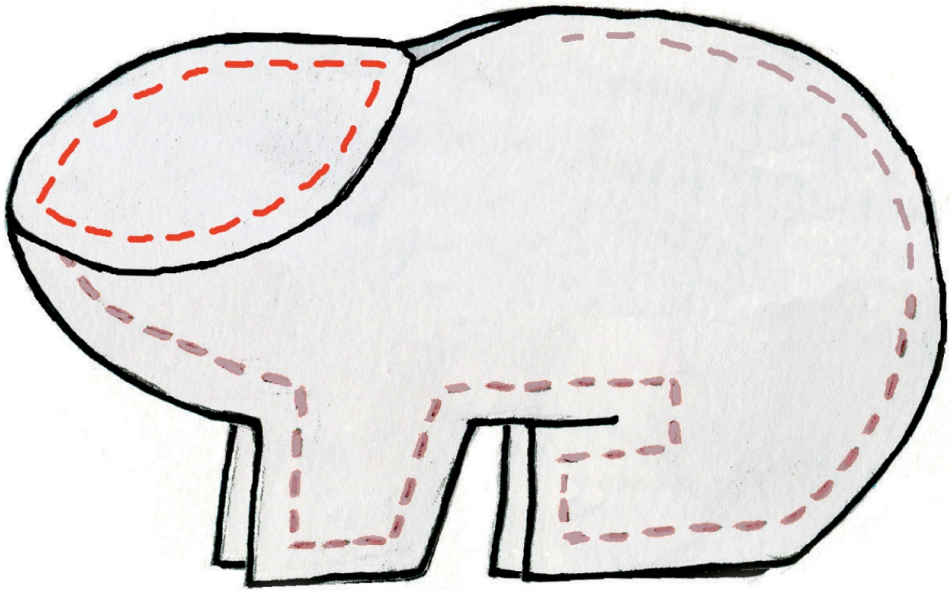
(D) *Stitch underside to side.*

5. Stitch the tail to one side just above the diamond marking (E).



(E) *Stitch tail to side.*

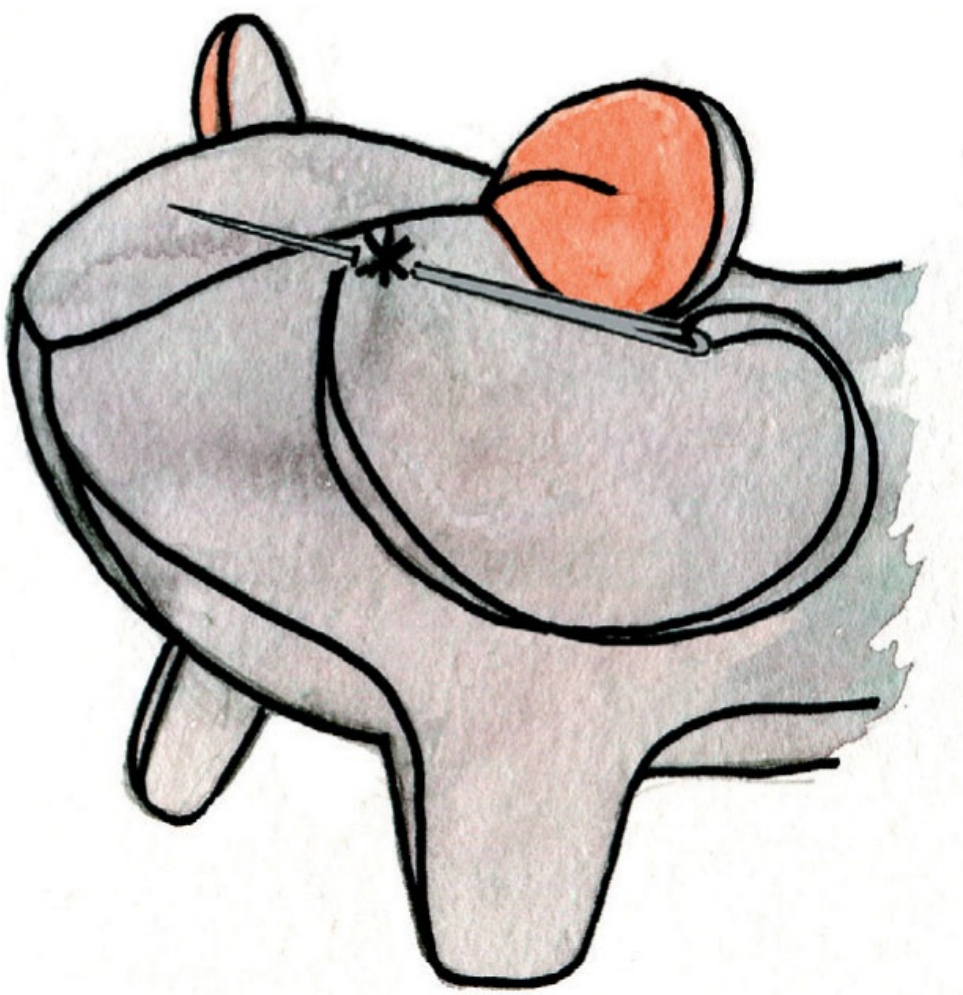
6. Sew the sides together along the back, starting at the diamond notch and stopping about 1-3/4" (4.4 cm) shy of the ear notch. Starting at the circle mark on the nose, align the head panel with one side. Stitch from the nose to the back of the head. Repeat with the other side of the head panel (F).



(F) *Attach head panel.*

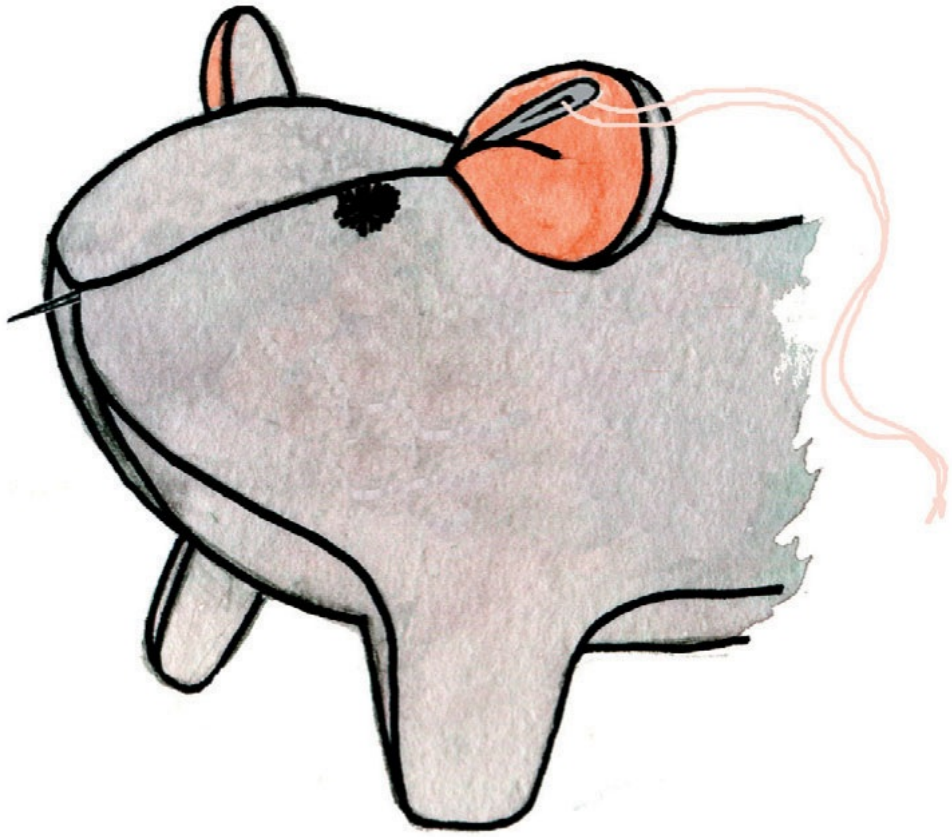
7. Turn the mouse right side out and stuff; hand stitch the opening closed.

8. Embroider the eyes. Use black all-purpose thread, and anchor the knotted end just below the seam of the head panel and side. Make a 1/4" (6 mm) stitch parallel to the seam. Continue to make small stitches in the form of an asterisk (G). Make the horizontal stitches slightly longer to create an almond-shaped eye. Push the needle across to the other side and repeat.



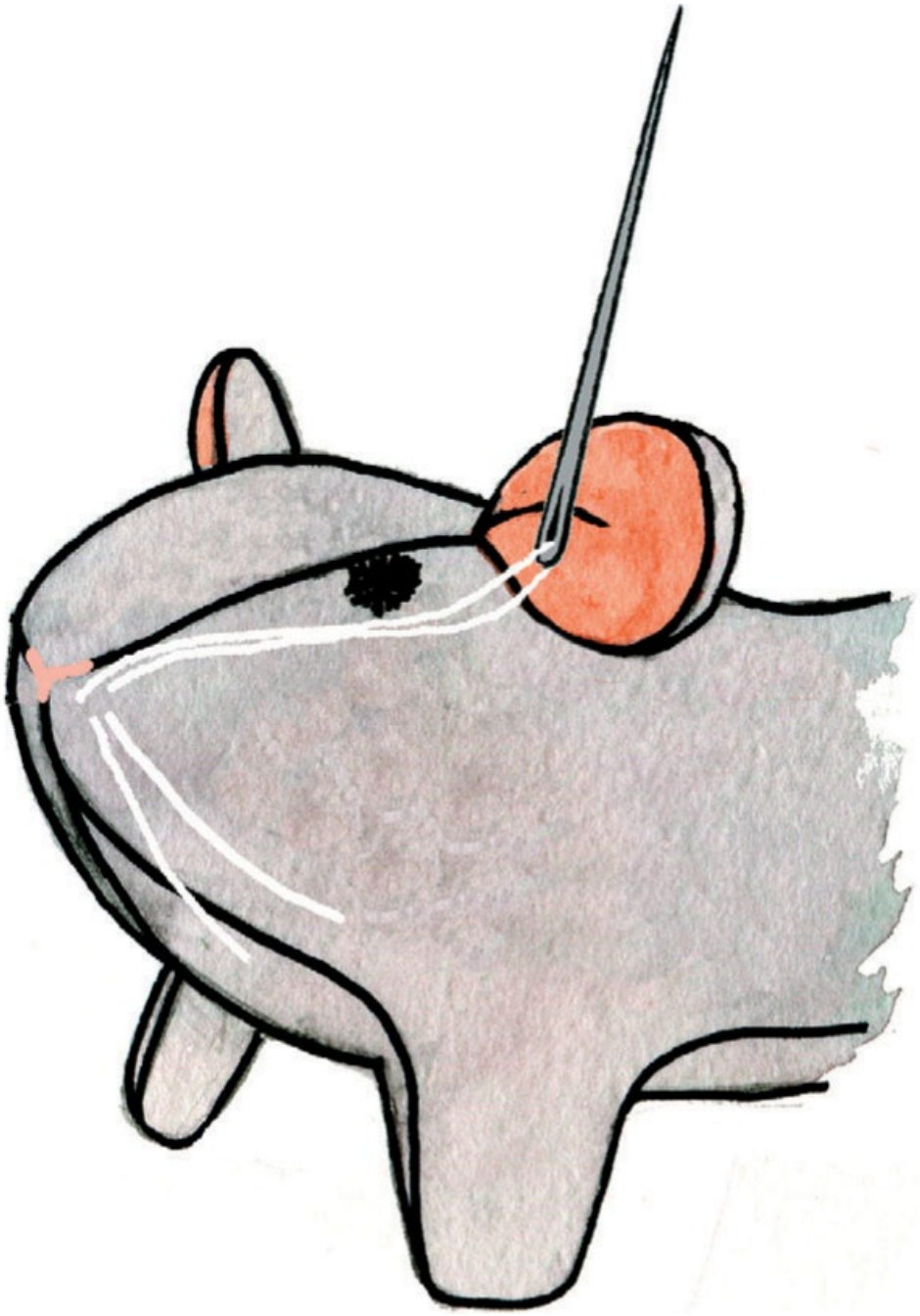
(G) *Embroider eyes.*

9. To embroider the nose, thread your needle with pink embroidery floss. Insert the needle near the ear so your knot will be hidden, and exit where the head panel and side seams intersect. Make three small stitches in a Y shape the along the seams (H). Push the needle out and tie off near the ear.



(H) *Embroider nose.*

10. For the whiskers, thread a needle with about 6" (15 cm) of white quilting thread, but do not knot the ends. Make a tiny stitch near the nose, and tie the thread ends together to keep the whiskers in place (I). Make one more set of whiskers on the same side. Repeat on the other side of the nose.



(I) *Add whiskers.*

project 17

fluffy sheep

I used a chunky alpaca and wool blend yarn to create this sheep's thick, fluffy coat.

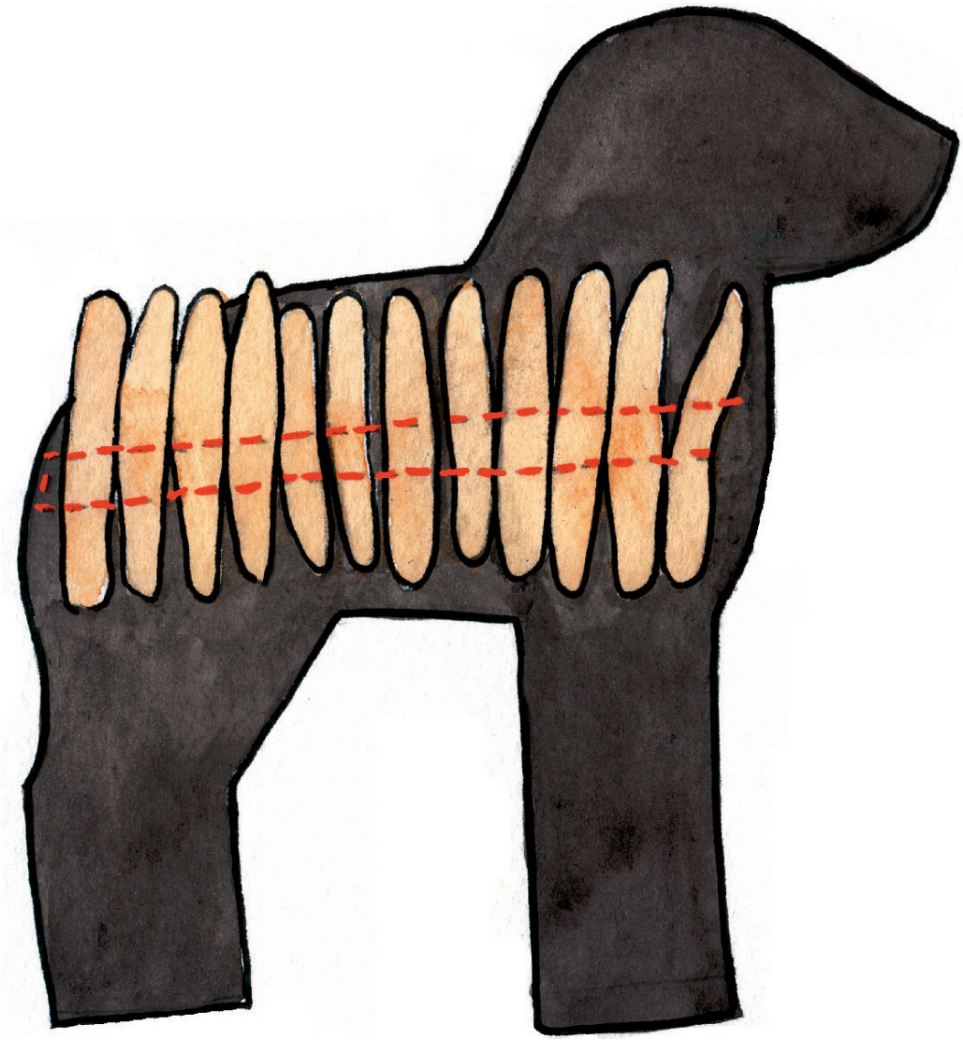
Size of sheep shown: 5-1/2"(14 cm) tall
Use patterns on page 127 at 200%.

MATERIALS

- medium-weight cotton fabric
- skein of chunky yarn
- all-purpose sewing thread
- white or light gray embroidery floss
- fiberfill
- Susan Bates brand 3-1/2" (9 cm) pom-pom maker (optional)

1. Wrap yarn around half of the 3-1/2" (9 cm) pom-pom maker and cut off to create 2-1/2" to 3" (6.5 to 7.5 cm) lengths of yarn. If you don't have a pom-pom maker, wrap the yarn around two fingers several times and cut off. Repeat this until you have about 100 lengths of yarn.

2. With one side piece lying right side up, line up the strands of yarn side by side across the body; keep the yarn within the 1/4" (6 mm) seam allowance. Using all-purpose thread to match the yarn, stitch down the middle of the yarn. Make a second row of stitches about 3/8" (1 cm) below the first (A).



(A) *Stitch row of yarn to side.*

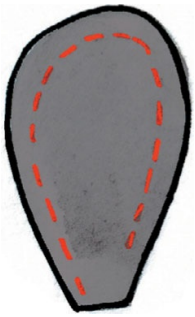
3. Fold the yarn over and topstitch along the fold to hold in place (B).

(B) *Fold over yarn and stitch.*

4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 with another row of yarn (C). Stitch the next row about 1/8" (3 mm) from the first row.

(C) *Add another row of yarn.*

5. Stitch two ear pieces together. Leave the straight edge and 1/4" (6 mm) of one side unsewn (D). Turn right side out.

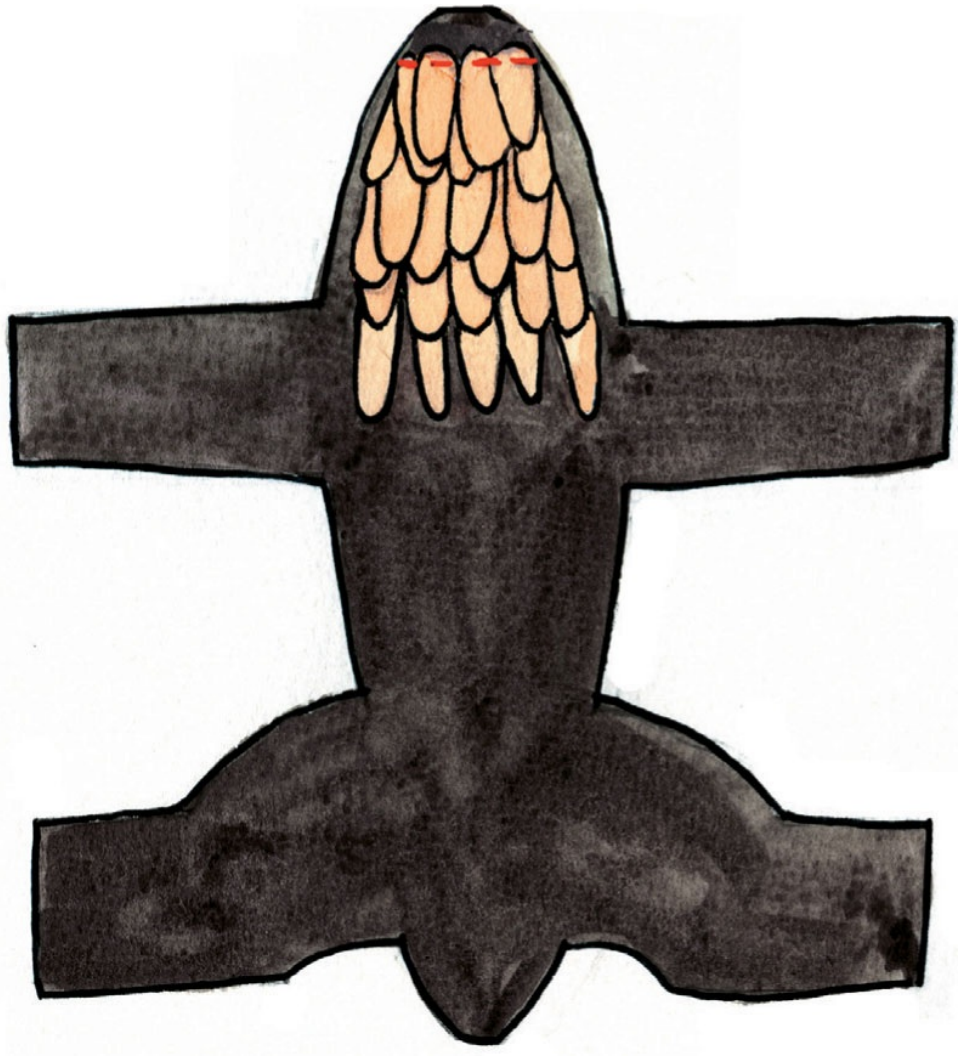


(D) *Stitch ear pieces together.*

6. Fold an ear in half, and with the fold facing toward the back, stitch to one side at the notch. Keep the stitching within the 1/4" (6 mm) seam allowance. make sure the ear is on the fabric right side of the side piece. Add another row of yarn on the neck, being careful not to catch the ear in the stitching (E).

(E) *Stitch ear to side. Add more yarn along neck.*

7. With the right side of the underside facing up, add a row of yarn between the two front legs. Continue adding yarn all the way up the chest, staying within the 1/4" (6 mm) seam allowances (F).

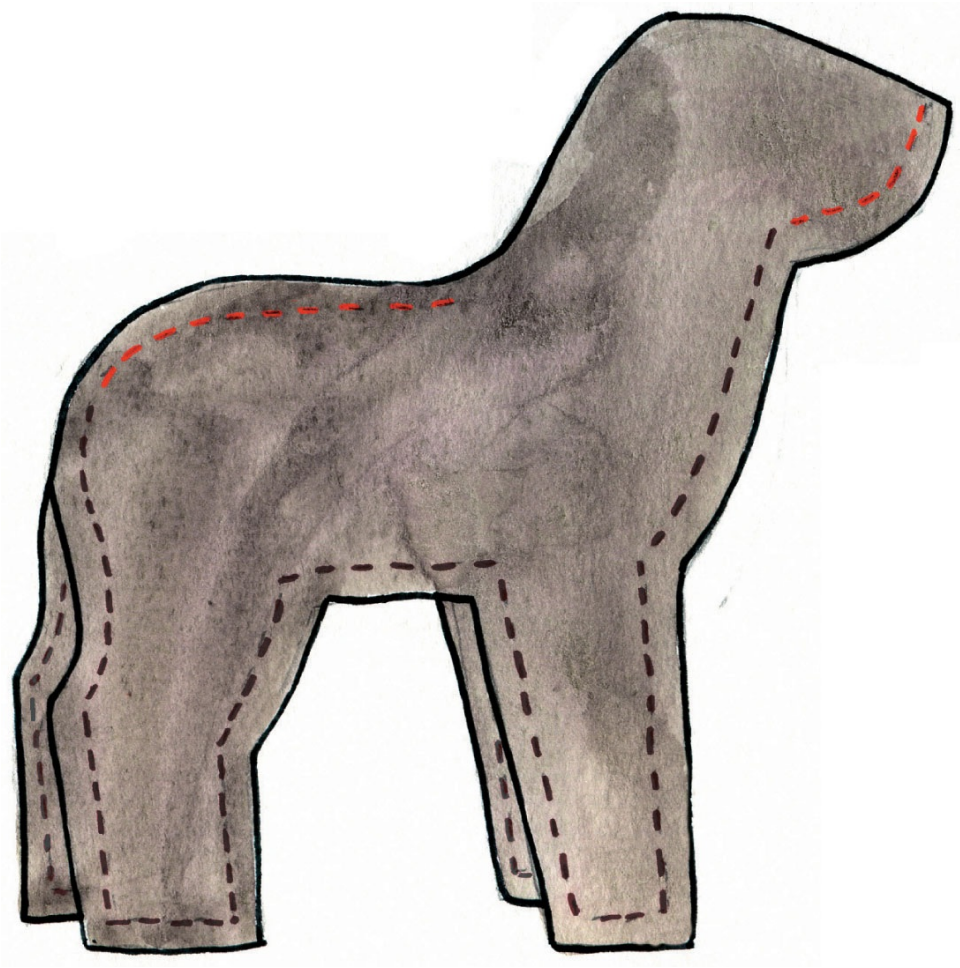


(F) *Add yarn to underside.*

8. Align the underside with one side piece, pushing the yarns away from the seam allowance; stitch together from the circle mark to the diamond mark (G). Repeat with the other side.

(G) *Stitch underside to side.*

9. Stitch the sides together along the bottom of the muzzle, until you reach the nose. Stitch the sides together along the back until you reach the neck (H).



(H) *Stitch along back and lower muzzle.*

10. Align one side of the head panel with one side piece, and stitch from the nose to the back of the head. Repeat with the other side, but this time stop sewing just after the ear (I). Use this opening to turn the sheep right side out; stuff and hand stitch the opening closed.

(I) *Attach head panel.*

11. To make the eyes, use three strands of embroidery floss, anchor a knot just below the seam of the head panel and side. Make a 1/4" (6 mm) stitch parallel to the seam (J). Continue to sew small stitches in the form of an asterisk. Make the horizontal stitches slightly longer to create an almond-shaped eye. Push the needle across to the other side and repeat for the other eye.

(J) *Embroider eye.*

12. Push your needle out at the nose, where the head panel and sides meet. Make three small stitches in a Y shape along the three seams (K). Push the needle out behind the ear and tie off so the knot is hidden.

(K) *Embroider nose.*

project 18 tiger

This is a fun way to use the zigzag stitch on your sewing machine! Use a sturdy fabric, such as felt, to stand up to all the stitching.

Size of tiger shown: 5" (12.5 cm) tall
Use patterns on page 127 at 200%.

MATERIALS

orange felt for body

medium-weight cotton fabric for underside and inside ears

pink felt for nose

all-purpose sewing thread

black all-purpose thread for stripes

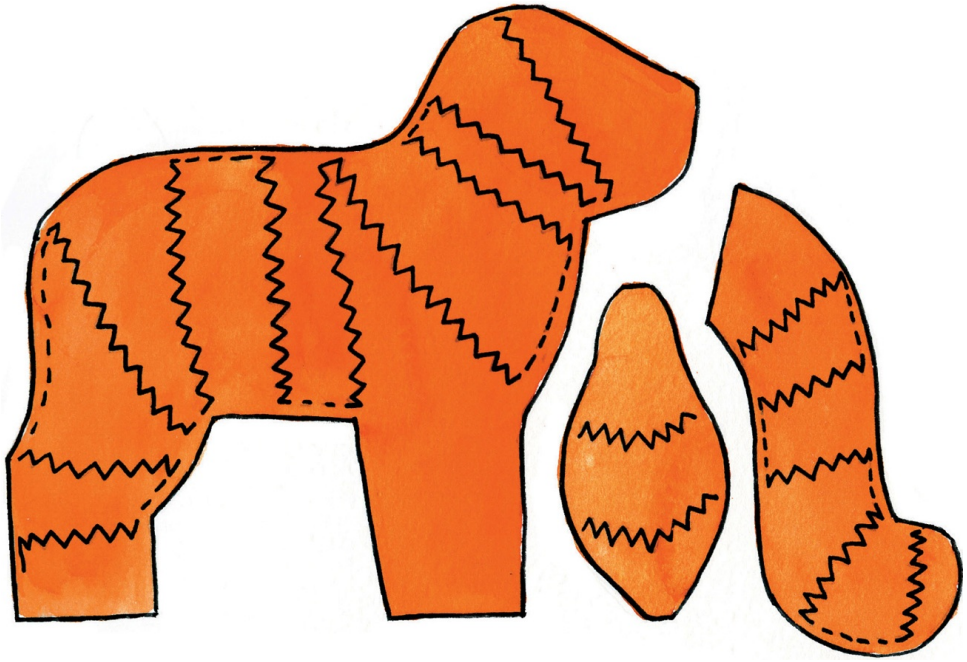
black embroidery floss

white quilting thread

white wool yarn

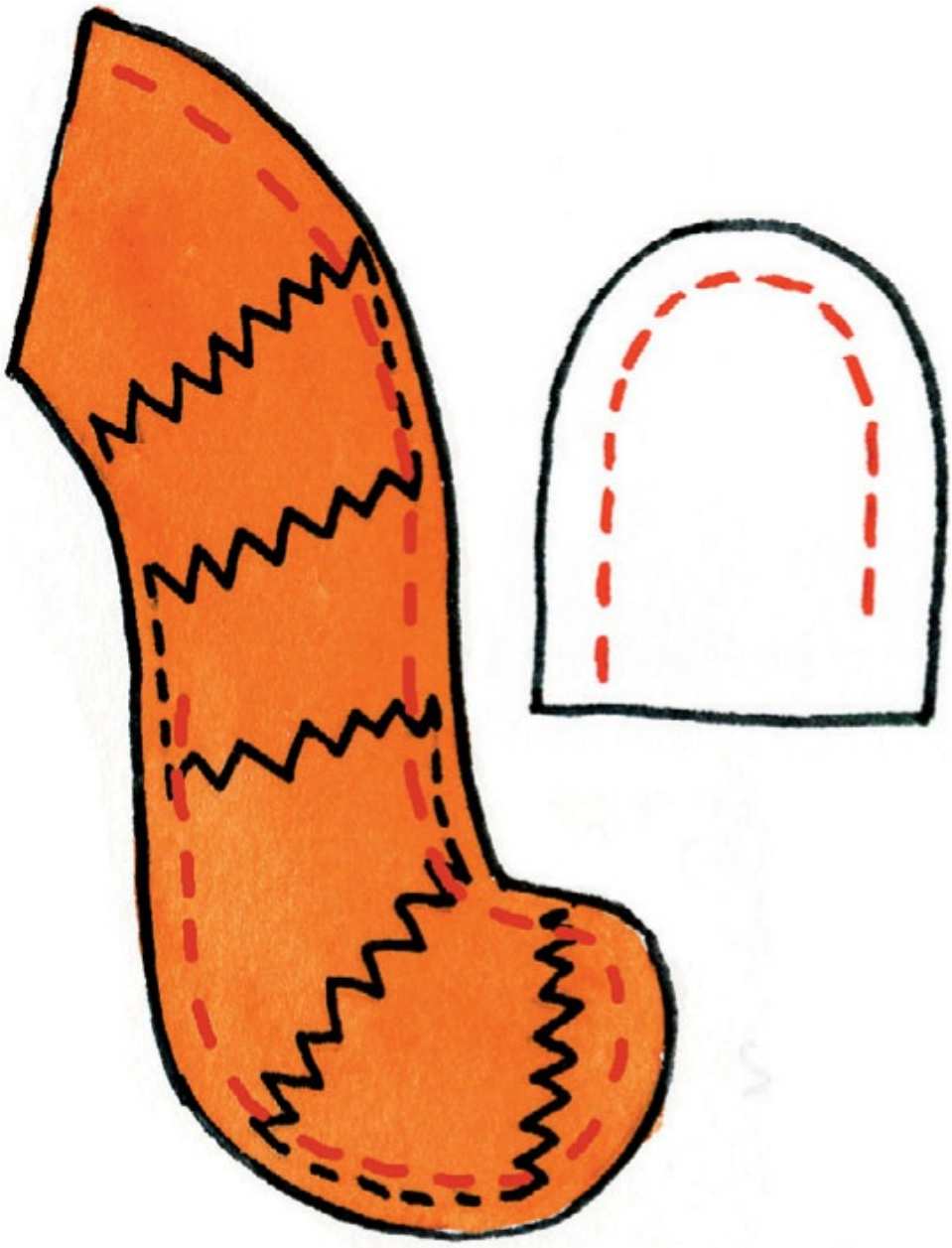
fiberfill

1. Use a scrap of felt to test your sewing machine's setting; adjust as needed until you find the zigzag that will work best. Stitch zigzag stripes across the head panel, both tail pieces, and both side pieces. To move from one stripe to another, set the sewing machine to a straight stitch and keep the stitching within the 1/4" (6 mm) seam allowance (A).



(A) *Stitch stripes on sides, head panel, and tail pieces.*

2. Stitch the tail pieces together; leave the straight edge and 1-1/4" (3 cm) of one side unsewn. Sew two ear pieces together, leaving the straight edge and 1/4" (6 mm) of one side unsewn (B). Repeat to sew the other ear. Turn both ears right side out.

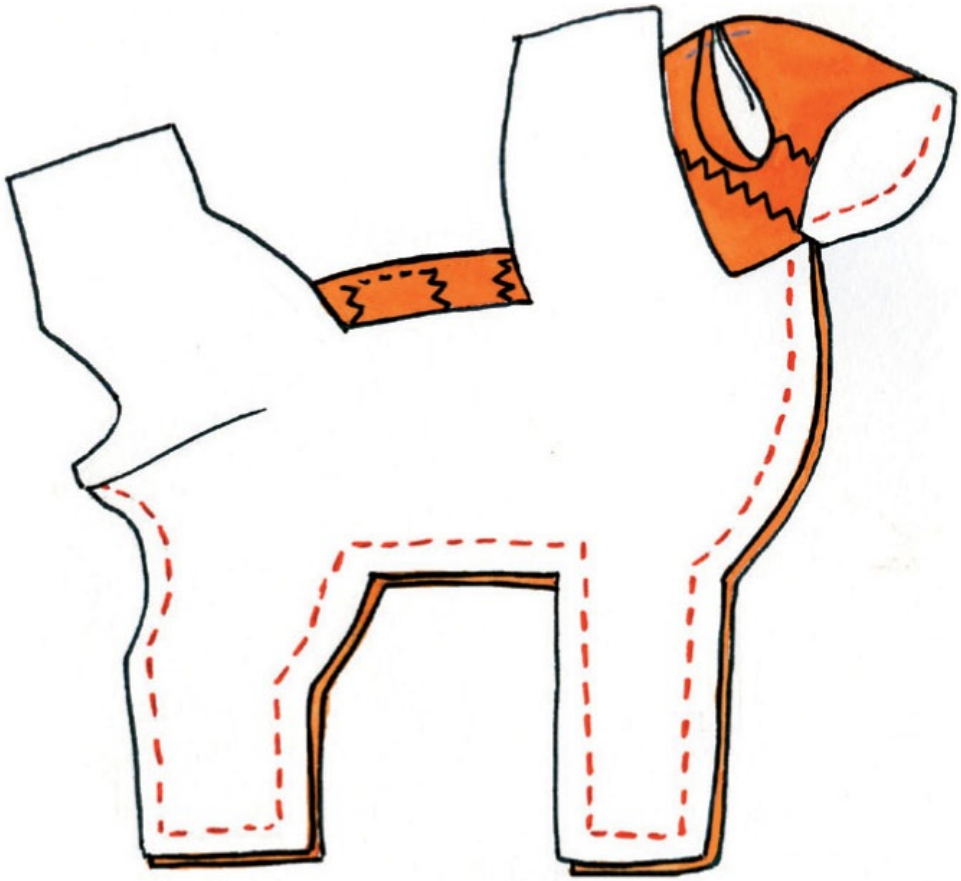


(B) *Sew tail and ear pieces together.*

3. Fold an ear in half, with the fold toward the back, and stitch it to the side at the notch, keeping stitches within the 1/4" (6 mm) seam allowance. Make sure the ear is on the fabric right side of the side piece (C). Repeat to attach an ear to the other side.

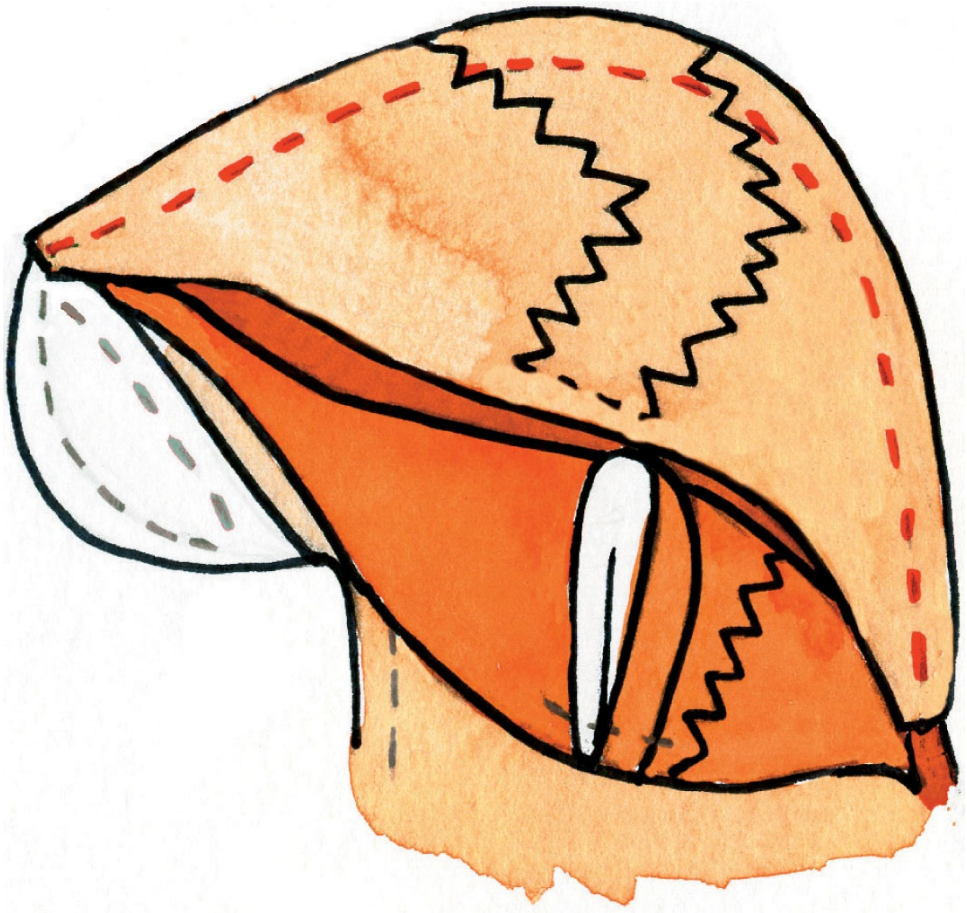
(C) *Stitch ear to side.*

4. Align the underside with one side piece and stitch between the neck circle and the rear diamond marks. Align one side of the chin panel with the side and stitch from the nose notch to the front neck (D). Repeat with the other side. Stitch the sides together along the back, stopping about 3/4" (2 cm) shy of the neck.



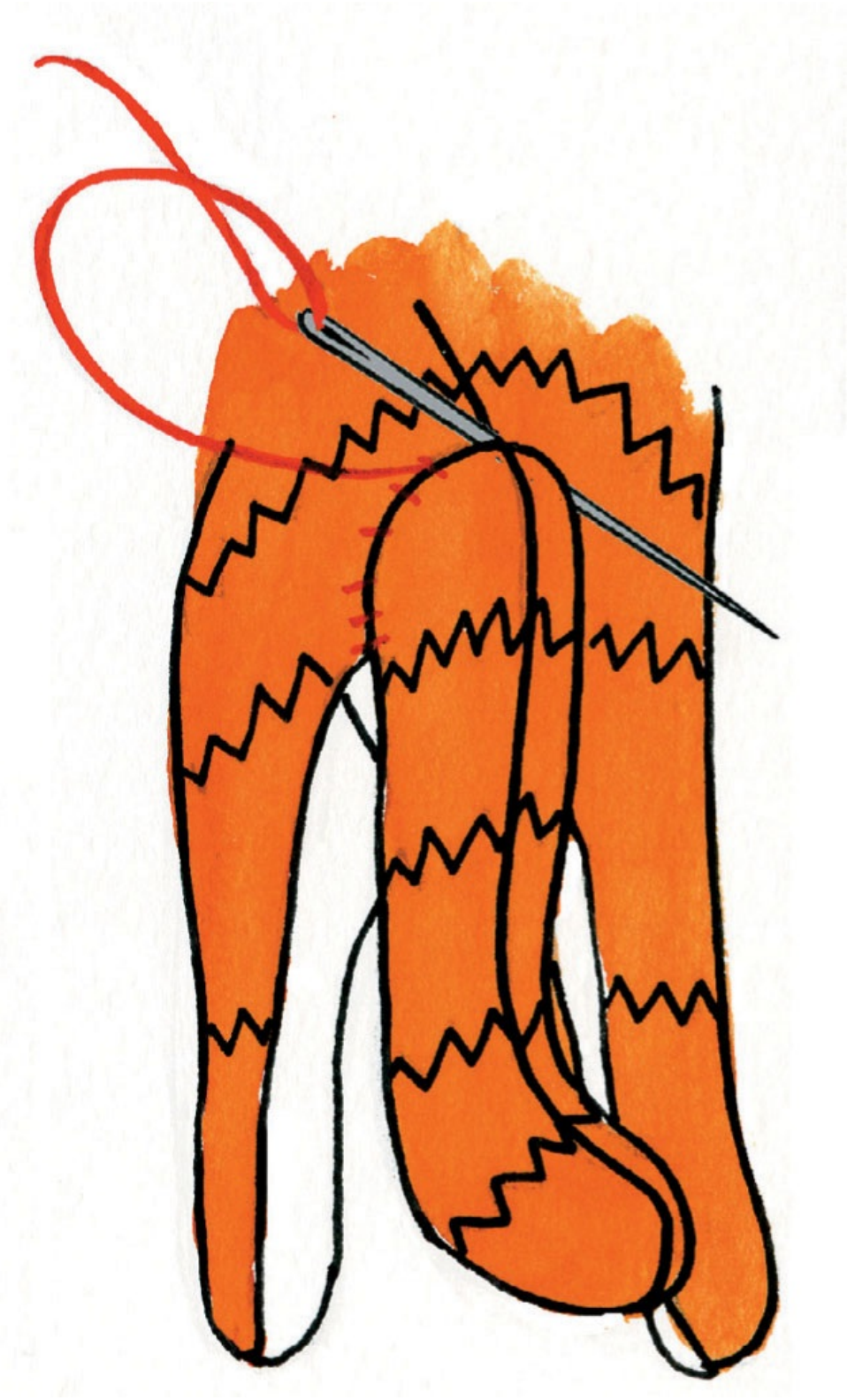
(D) *Sew underside and chin panel to side.*

5. Align the head panel with one side, placing the panel's narrower end at the nose notch. Stitch from the nose to the back of the head (E). Repeat with the other side, but this time stop just after sewing the ear. Turn right side out through the opening and stuff; hand stitch the opening closed.



(E) *Attach head panel.*

6. Turn the tail right side out and stuff. Hand stitch the side opening closed. Pin the tail to the tiger's body and stitch in place (F).

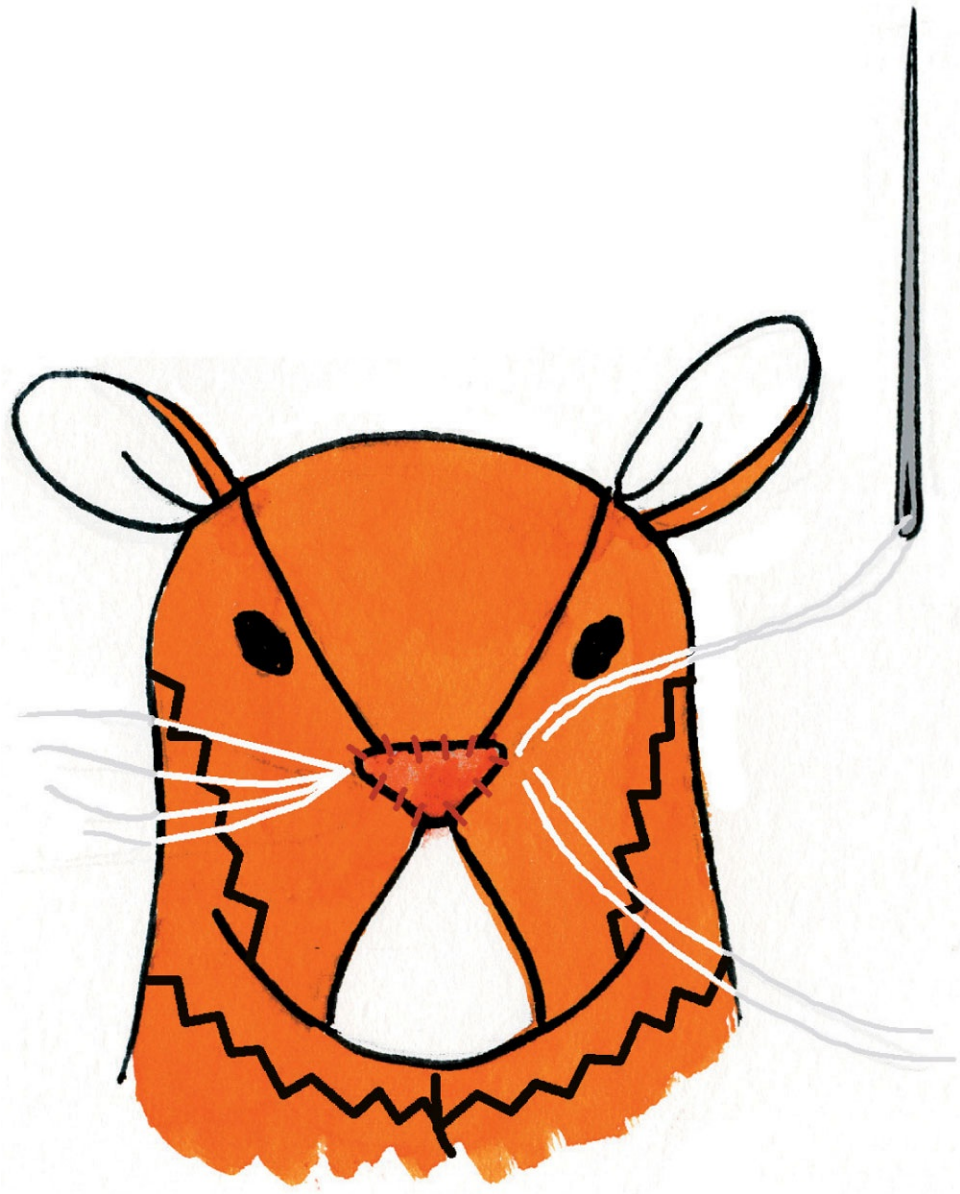


(F) *Attach tail.*

7. To make the eyes, use three strands of embroidery floss, anchor a knot just below the seam of the head panel and side. Make a 1/4" (6 mm) stitch parallel to the seam (G). Continue making small stitches in the form of an asterisk. Make the horizontal stitches slightly longer to create an almond-shaped eye. Push needle to the opposite side and repeat for the other eye.

(G) *Embroider eyes.*

8. Hand stitch the felt nose to the face. For the whiskers, thread a needle with about 6" (15 cm) of white quilting thread, but do not knot the ends. Make a tiny stitch near the nose, and leave long thread tails. Tie the thread tails together to keep the whiskers in place. Make one more set of whiskers on the same side. Repeat on the other side of the nose (H).



(H) *Add whiskers.*

9. To make the fringe around the tiger's face, cut twelve 1-1/2" (4 cm) segments of white yarn. Using white all-purpose thread, anchor the thread on one side of the neck. Push the needle through the center of six yarn segments, then insert the needle through the tiger about 3/8"(1 cm) below the ear (I).

(I) *Add fringe.*

10. Fold back the yarn and make tiny stitches along the fold to secure the yarn in place (J). Repeat on the other side of the face.

(J) *Stitch fringe in place.*

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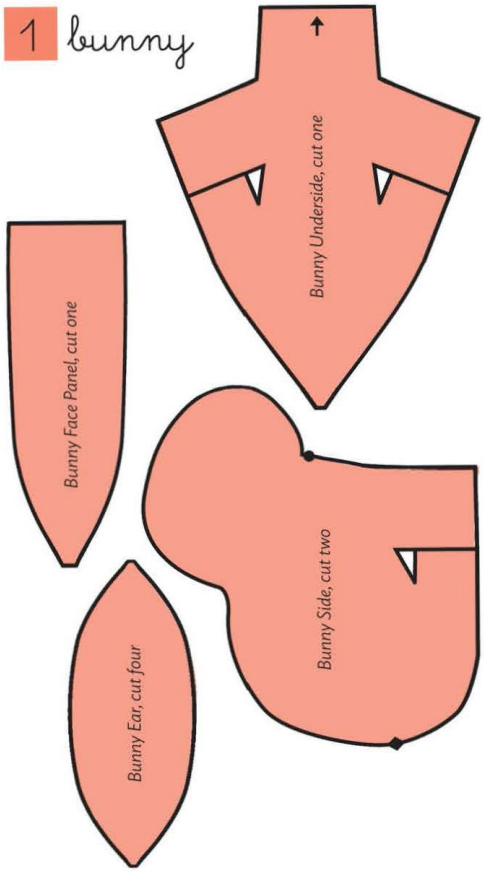
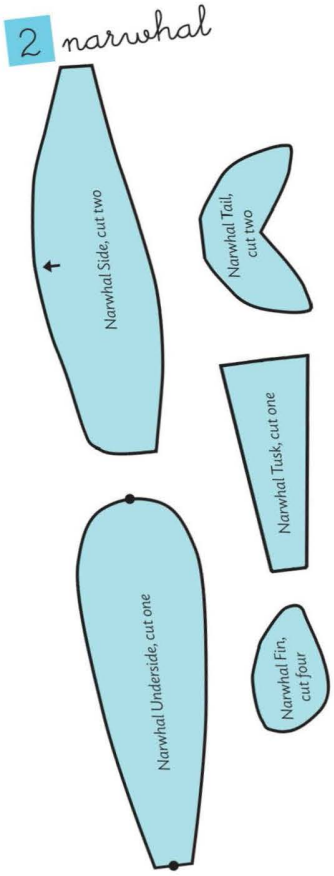

1 bunny
Bunny Underside, cut one
Bunny Face Panel, cut one
Bunny Side, cut two
Bunny Ear, cut four

2 narwhal


Narwhal Side, cut two
Narwhal Tail, cut two
Narwhal Tusk, cut one
Narwhal Underside, cut one
Narwhal Fin, cut four

3 dachshund

Dachshund Side, cut two
Dachshund Tail, cut two
Dachshund Ear, cut four
Dachshund Face Panel, cut one
Dachshund Underside, cut one

4 squirrel

Squirrel Tail Side, cut two
Squirrel Head Panel, cut one
Squirrel Tail Panel, cut one
Ear, cut four
Acorn Bottom, cut three
Squirrel Side, cut two
Acorn Top, cut one
Squirrel Underside, cut one

5 deer cake topper

Deer Cake Topper Bride Underside, cut one
Deer Cake Topper Groom Underside, cut one
Ear, cut eight
Deer Cake Topper Groom Side, cut two
Groom Head Panel, cut one
Tail, cut four
Bride Head Panel, cut one
Deer Cake Topper Bride Side, cut two
Antler, cut two

6 spring deer

Spring Deer Head Panel, cut one
Spring Deer Ear, cut four
Tail, cut two
Spring Deer Side, cut two
Spring Deer Underside, cut one

7 grizzly bear

Side Muzzle, cut two
Grizzly Bear Head Panel, cut one
Muzzle, cut one
Grizzly Bear Underside, cut one
Tail, cut two
Ear, cut four
Grizzly Bear Side, cut two

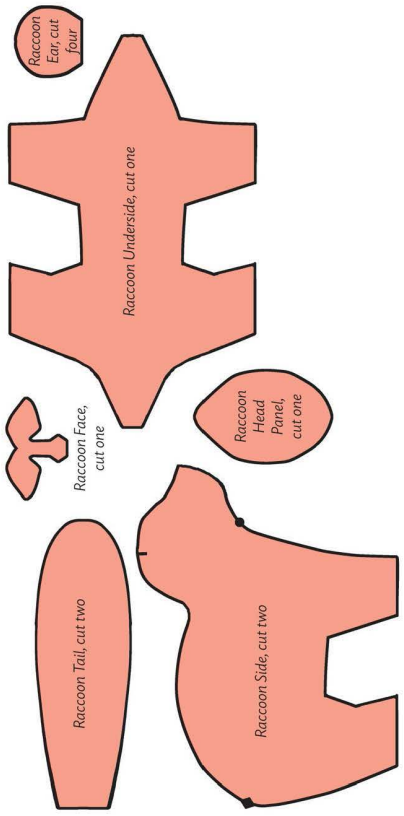
8 bulldog

Bulldog Underside, cut one
Bulldog Nose, cut one
Bulldog Tail, cut two
Ear Spot, cut one
Bulldog Muzzle, cut two
Bulldog Chin Panel, cut one
Bulldog Side, cut two
Eye Spot, cut one
Body Spot, cut one
Bulldog Head Panel, cut one
Ear, cut two

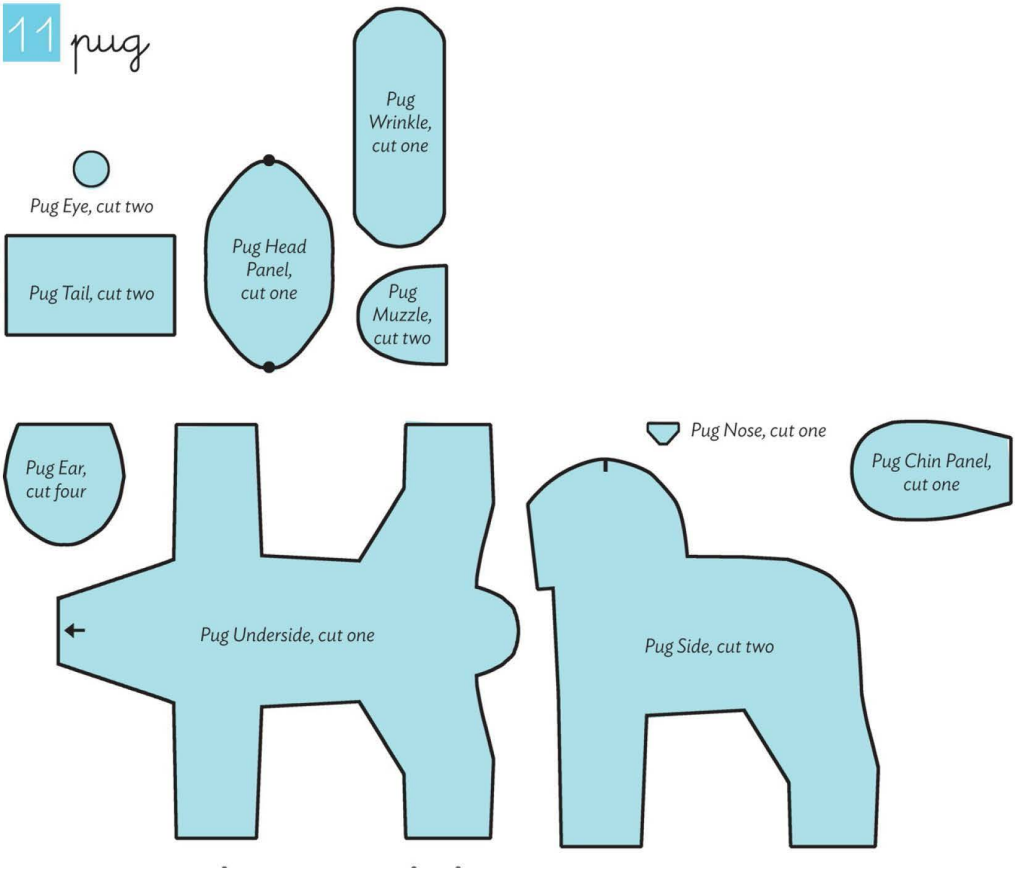
9 sitting cat

Cat Eye, cut two
Cat Tail, cut two
Cat Chin Panel, cut one
Cat Head Panel, cut one
Cat Ear, cut four
Cat Side, cut two
Cat Underside, cut one
Cat Nose, cut one

10 raccoon


Raccoon Ear, cut four
Raccoon Underside, cut one
Raccoon Face, cut one
Raccoon Head Panel, cut one
Raccoon Tail, cut two
Raccoon Side, cut two

11 pug


Pug Wrinkle, cut one
Pug Eye, cut two
Pug Head Panel, cut one
Pug Tail, cut two
Pug Muzzle, cut two
Pug Nose, cut one
Pug Chin Panel, cut one
Pug Ear, cut four
Pug Underside, cut one
Pug Side, cut two

12 hedgehog mobile

13 penguin holiday ornament

Penguin Ornament Wing, cut four
Penguin Ornament Side, cut two
Upper Face, cut one
Lower Face, cut two
Feet
Penguin Ornament Front, cut one
Penguin Ornament Beak, cut one
Penguin Ornament Back, cut one

14 prize-winning pony

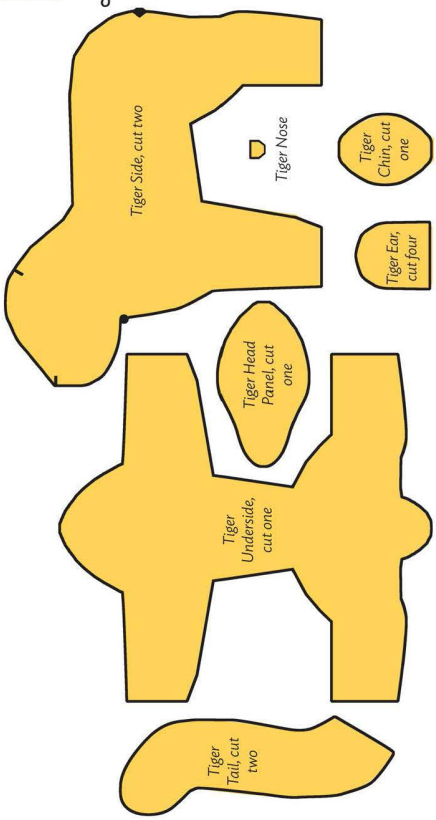
16 mouse

Fox Underside, cut one
Fox Nose, cut one
Fox Head Panel, cut one
Fox Side, cut two
Fox Tail Top, cut three
Fox Front Leg, cut two
Fox Ear, cut four
Fox Tail Bottom, cut three
Fox Back Leg, cut two
Fox Ruff, cut one

15 fox

17 fluffy sheep

18 tiger


Tiger Side, cut two
Tiger Nose
Tiger Chin, cut one
Tiger Ear, cut four
Tiger Head Panel, cut one
Tiger Underside, cut one
Tiger Tail, cut two

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